

Easy Maintenance - Not Maintenance Free

A common misconception with PVCu replacement windows and doors is that they are maintenance free. This is not the case. Although they will no longer need painting they will still need to be maintained. The following maintenance should be carried out on a minimum of a twice yearly basis.

Cleaning

The profile used in producing the windows, doors, patios and conservatories is made of PVCu (unplasticised polyvinyl chloride). It may be white or have a woodgrain finish. To maintain that factory look finish all that is required is a regular wash down with soapy water. Washing up liquid is ideal for this and can be used neat for any stubborn stains.

On no account should chemical or abrasive cleaners be used as the smooth surface can be damaged.

Doors – Residential

Having carried out the washing procedure all dirt and deposits should be removed from the various drainage slots that are in the sill (bottom) of the outer frames. Flush with water if necessary.

All mechanical parts of the door should be oiled regularly with graphite based oil. This includes the lock and associated parts, hinges and key barrel. Sprays like WD40 are not suitable for this as they evaporate and do not leave any lasting lubrication.

If you are in a high salt area by the coast it would be wise to protect with Silicone Grease, any mechanical parts on a 3 monthly basis.

Care for Patio Doors

Care should always be taken in closing the patio doors ensuring that the lock is not in the closed position, as this can damage the locking mechanism. Clean and lubricate as for residential doors making sure all runways are clean and clear of any debris, i.e. dirt, stones and garden soil etc.

Windows

All windows, including tilt and turn and casements should be cleaned and oiled as already described. If it is noticed, in opening or closing the vents, that the hinges appear to be loose or too tight this can be corrected simply by carrying out the following.

Open the window fully and locate the small brass screws located on the hinge. Tighten or loosen these with a screwdriver. It is important that all moving parts are oiled.

Condensation

Although double glazed sealed units can dramatically reduce condensation it can still occur. If you have purchased energiKare units for your new windows then you will find that any previous condensation will have virtually disappeared.

Following these few simple guidelines you will have many years of trouble free use from your new windows and doors.