

WINDOW & DOOR JOINERY

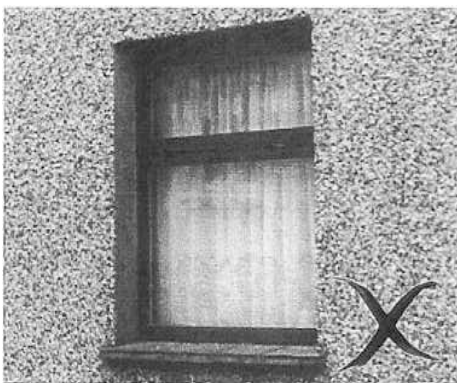
Windows and doors are the main features on an elevation and contribute greatly to the overall character. Each architectural period had windows and doors of a distinctive style and detailing. Traditionally, windows of cottages were small, especially on exposed north elevations.

Unfortunately, inappropriate replacements for old windows and doors causes much of the damage done to our valuable architectural heritage.

WINDOWS

Design Principles

- Choose a design appropriate to the original period of your house, including any new or additional windows. This applies to a traditional cottage, a Victorian vicarage or an Interwar bungalow!
- Avoid adding shutters, especially to modern properties and where solely cosmetic. Traditionally, shutters were simple, hinged, framed timber panels.
- Until this century lintels were made of stone, brick or wood and long spans were difficult to achieve. Traditionally window openings were therefore vertical in emphasis, which also has the advantage of improved privacy from the street. Where a wide opening is required consider using timber or stone mullions. Linked windows may also be appropriate. The exception is the strongly horizontal glazing patterns of some Interwar or Deco properties which should be retained or reproduced.
- Set windows back at least 50mm from the building face. This creates a shadow line and a sense of solidity. Windows in slate hanging are frequently flush on the facade.
- Avoid projecting timber sills. The traditional slate or stone sill requires much less maintenance in the long run.



Avoid windows with horizontal emphasis.



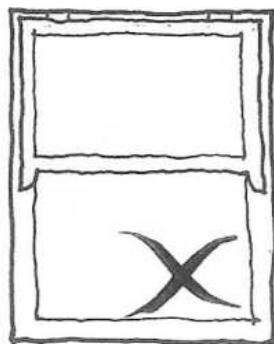
Avoid top hung night vents, which look too heavy.



When replacing windows match the glazing pattern to suit the period of the property. Horizontal glazing patterns are typical of the interwar period.

- Avoid designs which are asymmetrical or of horizontal emphasis.
- Leaded lights are a feature of some late Medieval and Interwar houses. However, the use of self adhesive lead lattice is to be avoided, especially on large areas of glass.

- Avoid window designs which include small top hung night vents, they are visually jarring especially on older properties. Integral trickle vents or modern window locks can provide secure ventilation.
- Avoid the use of fake styles - they never look convincing. "Georgian' or 'sash' top hung casements usually lack the correct proportions or sense of depth of the authentic feature. Avoid 'swept' (curved) or gothic headed casements. Semi-circular fan-headed windows are generally to be avoided, unless authentically detailed. PVCu versions should be used with care.
- There has always been a need to replace windows, however, it is vitally important that the character and charm of your home is not compromised by inappropriate materials, poor design, cost or apparent ease of maintenance.
- **Repair original windows whenever possible.** Older timber is usually of lasting quality and repair by a skilled joiner can often cost less than replacements. Any repair or new work to windows should exactly match the size, detail, mouldings of the original.
- Avoid anodised aluminium. The combination of hardwood surround, grey metal frames and large expanses of glass creates an exceptionally grim appearance. Coated aluminium of an appropriate design and colour may be suitable in some circumstances. Repair original windows whenever possible. Older timber is usually of lasting quality and repair by a skilled joiner can often cost less than replacements. Any repair or new work to windows should exactly match the size, detail, mouldings of the original.
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Avoid fake 'sash' casements.



Avoid swept head casements.



Avoid incorrectly detailed fan-headed windows.

- Semi-circular fan-headed windows were a feature of some Georgian and Victorian properties and if replaced must be authentically detailed.
- Aluminium, stained hardwood or PVCu should not be used on Listed Buildings, or on facades visible from the public domain in other Designated Areas.
- If replacing modern windows seek specialist advice regarding the age and correct style of window for your property.
- Some 16th and 17th century mullioned windows retain their wrought iron and leaded lights. Appendix 2 includes details of specialists for repair to leaded panes.
- Retain old 'Crown glass including existing bullions. Modern glass appears flat when compared to 'wobbly' old glass, which catches the light in a characteristic manner. Do not insert bullions where none existed before.

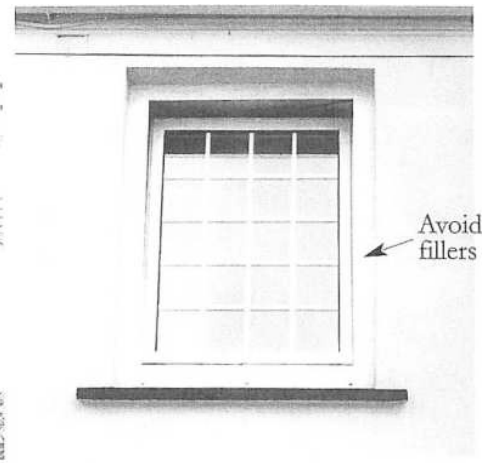
- Original windows are often draughty' in exposed areas. Specialist weather stripping for sash windows is available. Secondary glazing is effective in excluding draughts and noise. The glazing pattern of secondary glazing should suit the pattern of the original window.



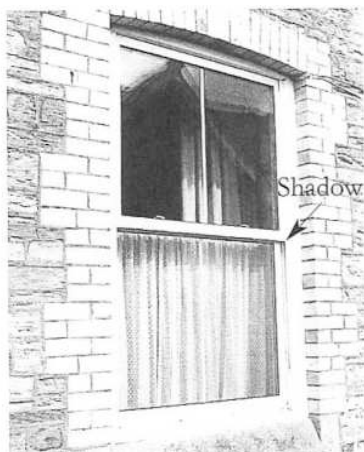
The real thing! A timber vertical sliding sash window. Note that the sides of the sash frames are wider than the central meeting rail and that the bottom row of the lower sash is the thickest of all. Note the shadow where the two sashes meet.



Compare this with the original window shown adjacent. The 'meeting rail' is the widest element, while the bottom of the lower sash is the thinnest! These subtle changes in detailing spoil the proportions.



The 'glazing bar' effect should not be carried across the whole window area, and the use of fillers avoided. Replacement windows must fit the opening.



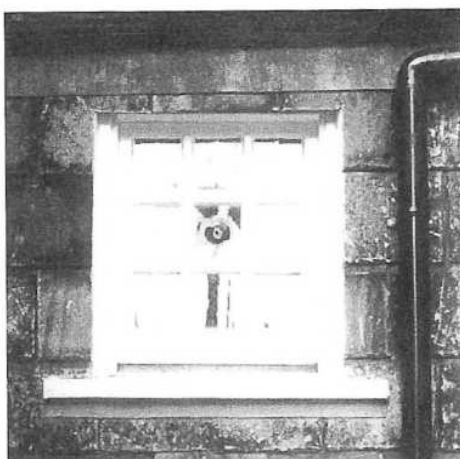
Nearly right! A PVCu sliding sash window. Note the shadow at the meeting rail and the thicker frame to the bottom of the lower sash.



Failed attempt to retain the authentic proportions of an old window. The original pattern of the above example can only be surmised!



The original method of glazing a square proportioned opening. Note that the vertical proportions are retained by subdivision into smaller sliding sash windows. Avoid the use of decorative lead flashing on older properties.

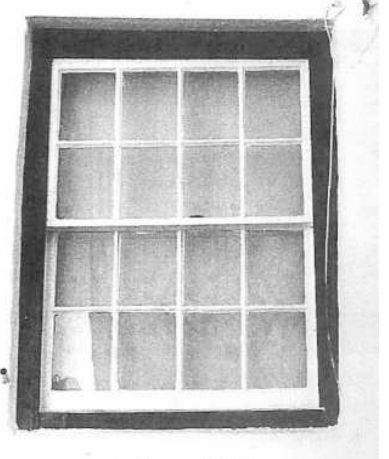


9 pane design

F10

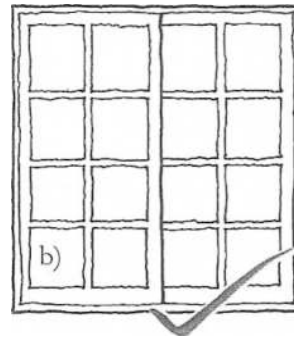
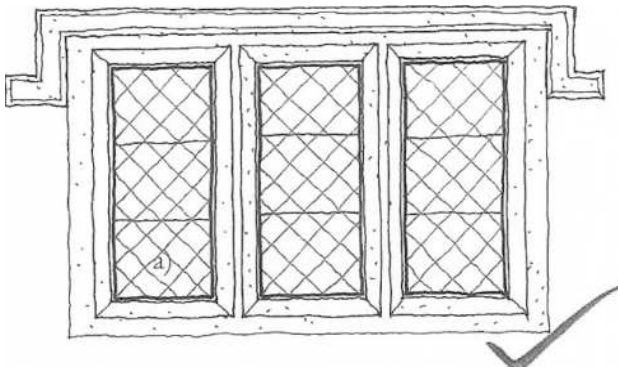


12 pane design



16 pane design

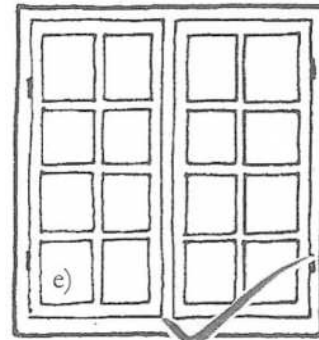
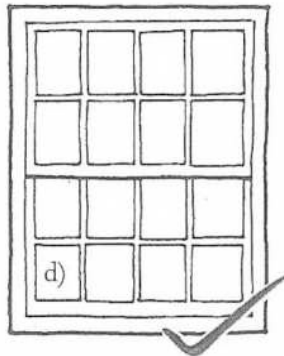
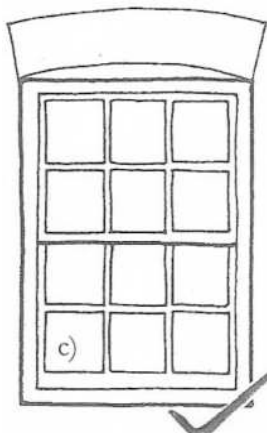
Some examples of windows found in historic properties



a) 16 century stone mullioned windows with diamond leaded lights in wrought iron casement.

b) Horizontal sliding sashes are sometimes found, in cottages and should be retained whenever possible

Georgian period windows

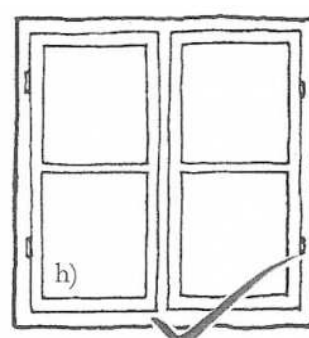
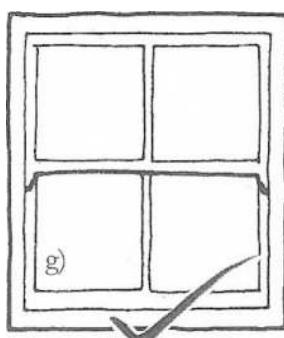
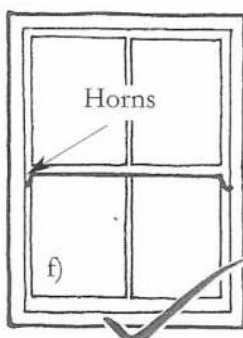


c) Early Georgian, windows had heavier section glazing bars these should be retained.

d) 16 pane window.

e) Typical casement, notice central meeting style.

Victorian period windows

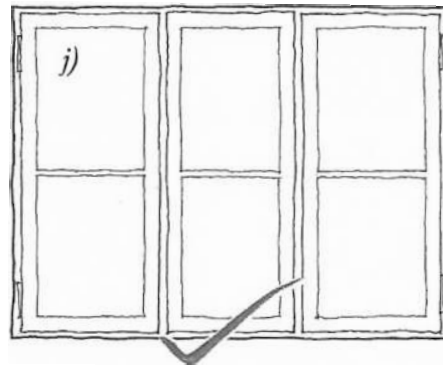
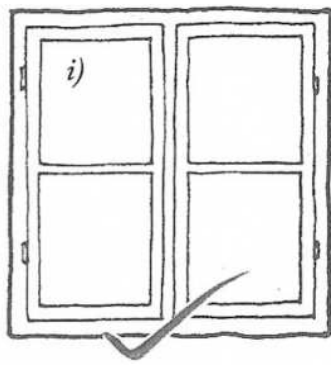
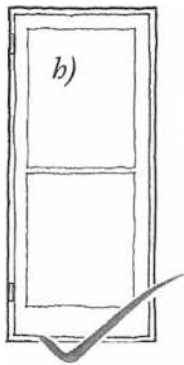


f) Notice horns on windows of this date.

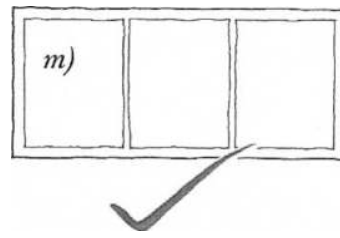
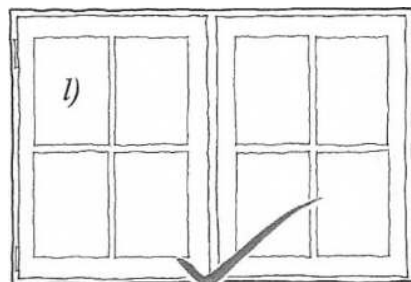
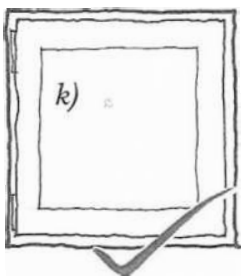
g) Suitable for cottages.

h) Typical casement with central meeting style.

Modern window styles



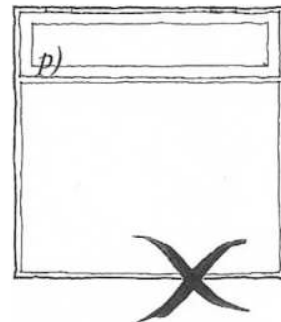
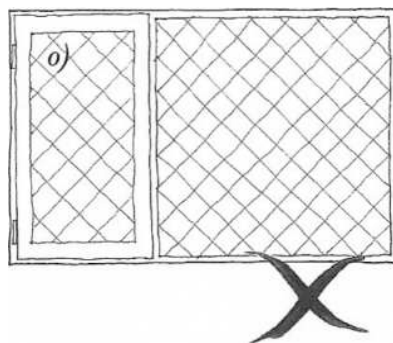
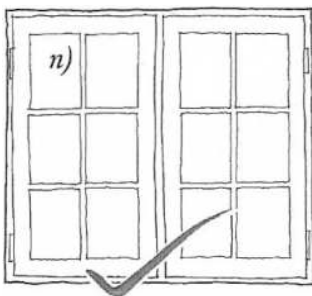
h-j) Modern casements with or without horizontal glazing bars.



k) Simple square casement Suitable for small format windows e.g. bathrooms.

l) Linked windows are suitable for wider openings.

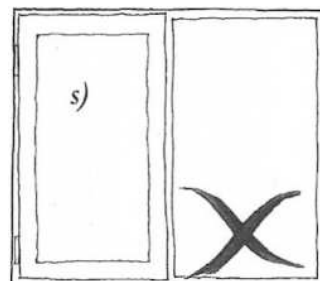
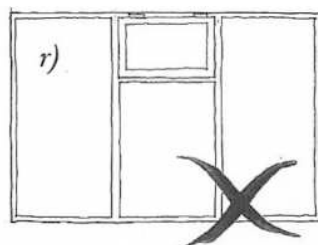
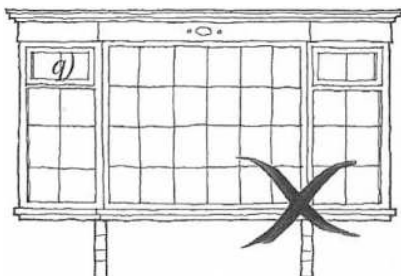
m) Subdivided fixed lights are suitable for wider openings.



n) Cottage style casement with central meeting style.

o) Avoid applied leaded light effect.

p) Avoid top opening casements which create a horizontal emphasis.



q) Avoid off-the-peg bay windows.

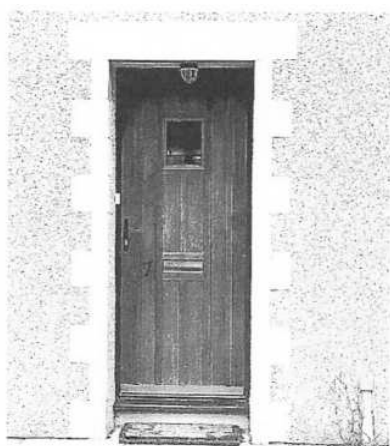
r) Avoid night vents.

s) Avoid single opening casements which create an asymmetrical effect.

DOORS

Design Principles

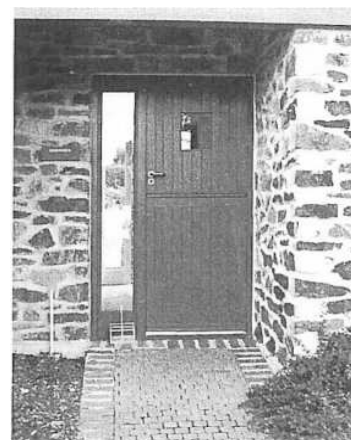
- **Repair** an original door if at all possible.
- Avoid stained tropical hardwood or glazed aluminium doors.
- Set back doors from the face of the building by at least 50mm.
- Avoid flimsy timber sills.
- Avoid PVCu front doors. The frame and seal detail creates a mean and visually unsatisfactory entrance. The panelled effect is seldom of the correct detail or proportion.
- Avoid very ornamental or patterned doors. A simple door of good proportions is generally suitable.
- Avoid integral fan lights. Fan lights are appropriate over the door.
- The style of the door should suit the period of the house.
- The design of patio doors (French Windows) should reflect the character of the building and other windows and doors.
- Older doors are often wider than modern versions. Do not modify an existing frame and opening to fit an 'off the peg' modern door. The extra width of an older door creates a cosy welcoming effect.
- Stained or varnished doors are to be generally avoided. Black/dark grey stains or microporous paints may be appropriate for rural cottages.



A modern cottage style door. Note the dressed stone quoins to the door surround.



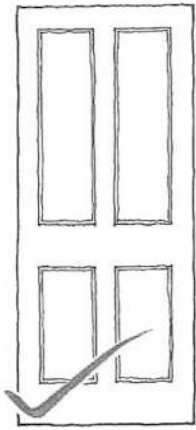
An unstained oak boarded door weathers to a silver grey. This would be suitable for a rural property.



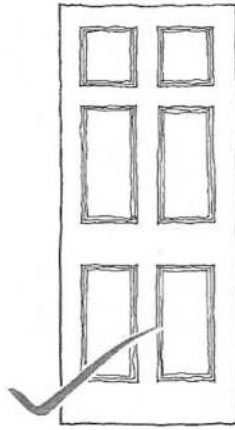
A modern stable door simple, well proportioned and fits well with the vernacular.

- Paint is the traditional finish for domestic doors.
- Avoid strong bright colours. Darker tones are generally appropriate. Azure blue may be suitable in coastal locations.
- Avoid plastic or chrome numerals, letterboxes and knockers. Solid brass or black iron are more appropriate.

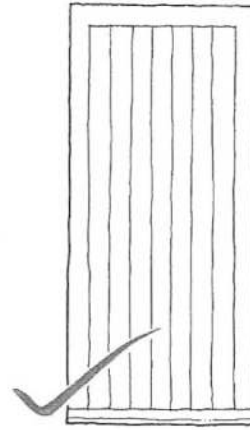
Doors appropriate in older buildings



a)



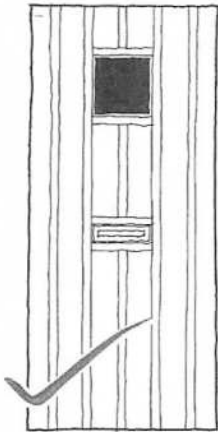
b)



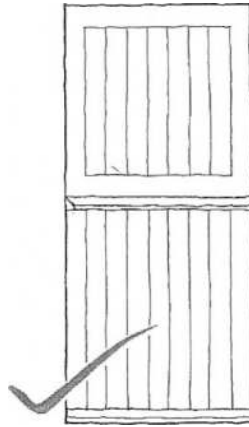
c)

- a) 4 panelled suitable for cottages and Victorian property.
- b) 6 panelled suitable for Georgian property.
- c) Framed, ledged and boarded suitable for cottages and rural properties.

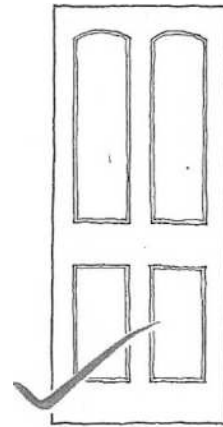
Doors appropriate for new buildings



d)



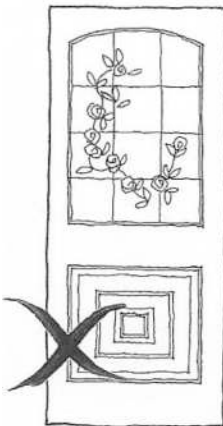
e)



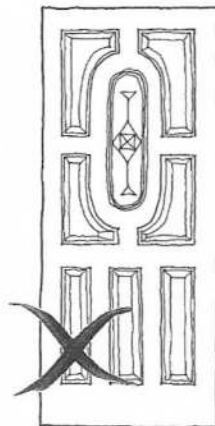
f)

- d) Modern cottage styled door.
- e) Modern double door suitable for secondary entrances and in rural location.
- f) Modern 4 panelled door.

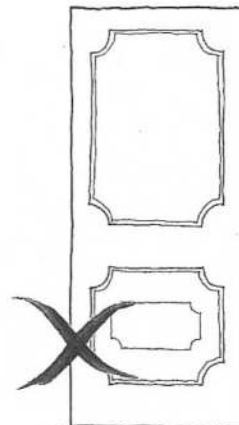
Avoid



g)



h)



i)

- g) Avoid over decorated doors.
- h) Avoid over complicated panelling.
- i) Avoid applied decoration.



Retain and repair original joinery. Note the fan light is positioned over the door, and the correctly detailed glazing pattern. Repairing this door would be cost-effective in comparison to replacing it with a new one.



A Victorian door partly glazed with etched stained and cut glass panels. Retain these elements if at all possible.

Listed Buildings and Designated Areas

- Retain and repair original doors and unusual features such as half doors.
- When replacing modern or inappropriate doors, reclaimed timber panelled doors are recommended. These may be obtainable from local salvage yards.
- Timber ledged, braced and boarded doors are generally suitable for small cottages.
- Timber four or six panelled doors or panelled and glazed doors are generally suitable. Six panel doors are more appropriate for Georgian period and larger properties. Four panel doors for Victorian period houses and cottages.
- Avoid stick-on' stained glass effects. Real stained and lead came glass may be suitable for some Victorian houses.
- Aluminium, PVCu, stained tropical hardwood are not suitable on Listed Buildings and should be used with care in Designated Areas. Solid brass numerals, knockers, letter plates and knobs would be appropriate for 18th and 19th century houses. Black japanned thumb latches would be suitable on small cottages. On no account should mock strap hinges or studs be used to create an 'olde worlde' effect.