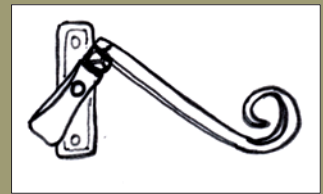


windows repair and reinstate

is replacing windows the only solution?



MATERIALS AND STYLES

Glass

Here in Guildford we live on the doorstep of the medieval glass making industry. In 1226 Lawrence Vitarius (glassmaker) set up in business near Chiddingfold and produced possibly the first glass manufactured in England. Some of this glass can still be seen in Westminster Abbey.

Characteristics of old glass are tiny air bubbles which are called seeds, and waves or ripples which are called reams. These imperfections give old glass real character and sparkle. In contrast modern glass is perfectly flat and uniform giving a mirror like reflection appearing blank and lifeless when compared to that found in historic buildings. Some types of historic glass are no longer made, making it all the more important to keep any historic glass that we still have.

'Broad Sheet', 'Muff' or 'Cylinder Glass' was the earliest type of glass for be made,. The quality of the glass was not good and only small leaded lights and quarries could be made.

'Crown Glass', also known as 'spun' glass. The size of a pane of glass available grew to 22"x14.5. 'Crown' glass was the preferred choice for window glass, together with some imported 'Cylinder' glass until the mid 19th Century.

'Improved Cylinder Glass' became available from 1832. The result was a larger pane size and a smoother surface quality.

The 'Machine Drawn Cylinder Sheet' process was used in the UK up to the end of the 1920's. It was the first mechanical method of drawing glass.

Modern Plate glass is made to a size limited only by the need to transport it safely.

New glass made to replicate the old, complete with all its character-giving imperfections, is still available through specialist glass suppliers and is widely specified by the National Trust, English Heritage and Conservation Architects as well as private individuals.

Metal Frames

• Cast iron windows 1790-1850

The first cast-iron windows were made in the 1790s. Cast-iron windows had been made earlier but they were known to be brittle so tend only to be found in Georgian fanlights and the like. Examples of cast iron windows can often be found in Victorian Gothic revival buildings, but most commonly industrial buildings.

• Steel Windows

By the 1880's 'Hot-rolled' steel windows superseded the cast-iron window. Popular in Arts and Crafts houses and post war Homes for Heroes, advancements in technology lead to the galvanising of steel windows from the 1930's.

Timber Frames

Early windows tended to be made of oak, but owing to the demands of the ship-building industry, oak became expensive and scarce. Imported baltic pine and fir were therefore introduced for joinery manufacture, although oak and mahogany were used for good quality work throughout the 18th Century.

sash window



casement window



Paint

Windows were sometimes left unpainted internally. The outside of sash windows were generally painted for protection from the elements, particularly after the introduction of softwoods. White lead was the standard paint used.

Ironmongery

The sash pulley, over which the cord passes to connect to the sash weight can often be used as a dating guide. In early windows this wheel was of brass where funds permitted, or boxwood or oak, later in the 18th century the cast-iron and brass sash pulleys superseded the earlier types, and in the 19th century decorative designs illustrated the care, thought and invention that went into the improvement of the window.

