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Learn To Change A Broken Sash Cord Yourself

Learning how to change a broken cord on a sash window by yourself is not as difficult as it may seem. Before starting the task, there are just a few things that will be needed. Some of the items may be on hand from other projects, but others may need to be purchased. Just be sure to have everything that is required to complete the job before beginning.

First, prepare for the task by making sure that finish nails, some wood putty, cotton or nylon rope, a utility knife, pry bar, putty knife, hammer, and a set of screwdrivers, are on hand. Anything that needs to be purchased can be done with a trip to the neighborhood hardware store.

Usually found in older homes, these double hung windows use weights to hold the sash up. The weights are attached to the frame on both sides by a line that loops around a pulley. Over a period of time, chafing, dirt, and sun can cause the rope or line to deteriorate and break. When this happens it needs to be replaced. It is a good idea to replace the cords on both side while everything is taken apart.

The job will begin by removing several parts of the window to allow access to the weight pocket, or well as it is also known. The stops will be the first pieces that are removed. Using a small pry bar or a putty knife works well for this task. In case there is a build up of paint that is holding pieces together, which is often the case, it might be necessary to cut through it with a utility knife.

From each side of the lower part of the frame, take off the metal track. Next take out the sash from the window frame. Now the well cover, or weight pocket cover can be removed. Now the weights are pulled out.

Begin this next step by measuring the length of the old line and then cutting two new ones using that measurement. Next, the new cords will be put in by pulling them through the pocket or well, and attaching them to the weights. Now it is time to put back the weight pocket or well covers.

Working in reverse of the disassemble, it is time to put everything back together. The first step is to attach the cords to both sides of the frame. Next position the sash back in the frame and reattach the tracks and then the interior stops. The broken cord on the sash window is now repaired. The window will now be working as if it is new.

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