

Installation Instructions



Installation Steps

Proper installation of your windows and doors is crucial to ensure their long-term performance and efficiency. Here are key steps and guidelines to follow for how to install our windows. This method is referred to as the strap method.

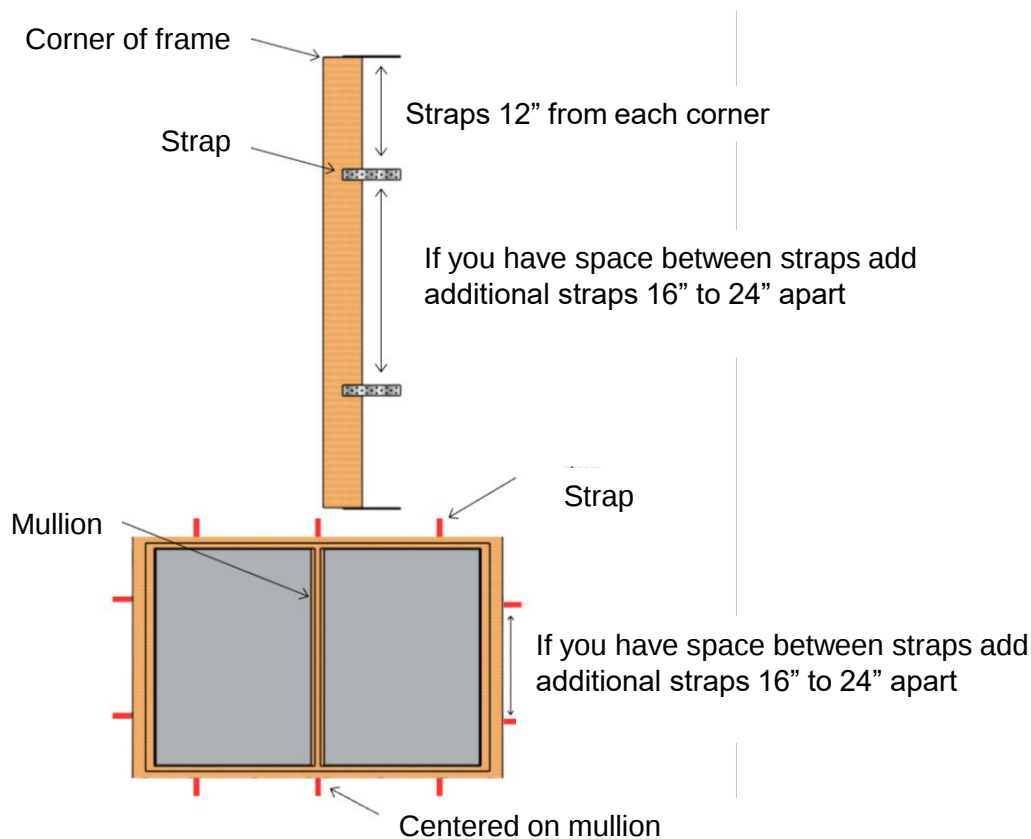
Step 1: Attach straps to window

Start by attaching straps to the window frame, approximately 12" from each corner on all sides. For smaller windows, fit at least 2 straps on each side of the window.

Next, wherever there is a mullion, whether vertical or horizontal, place a strap on the frame.

When these points have been strapped, finally add straps spaced 16" to 24" apart to fill in and support any strapless spaces remaining around the frame.

Disclaimer: Please check screw lengths to avoid going through the window frame..



Step 2: Shim and Level the Bottom of Rough Opening

Place shims across the bottom of the prepared window opening, placing them in specific locations to support the weight of the window.

Note: Use plastic or composite shims and blocks under the window so that in the event of building envelope failure or leaks, water doesn't deteriorate the window shims holding it up.

Put shims in these locations to start, this is what we refer to as weight bearing shims:

- 12" from the corner of any fixed glass. This is where the glass is blocked in the window frame. No matter the size of window or glass, it is only supported in 2 places.
- For operable or combination windows shim beneath jamb legs and hinges.
- Shim beside/under mullions, next to the strap.

Note: If the rough opening is 1" taller than the window size, the height of the bottom shim stack should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Ensure clearance at the bottom for your sloping windowsill to fit.

After these weight bearing shims are positioned in the rough opening:

- Place additional shims approximately every 16" to 20" to fill any wide spans left unsupported between the weight bearing stacks.

Note: These shims in theory support no weight but will help hold with window frame straight and level to prevent sagging over time. These shims can also be slipped under the window after it is set on the weight bearing shims stacks. If doing it this way, push them in so they are snug but not lifting or distorting the window frame.

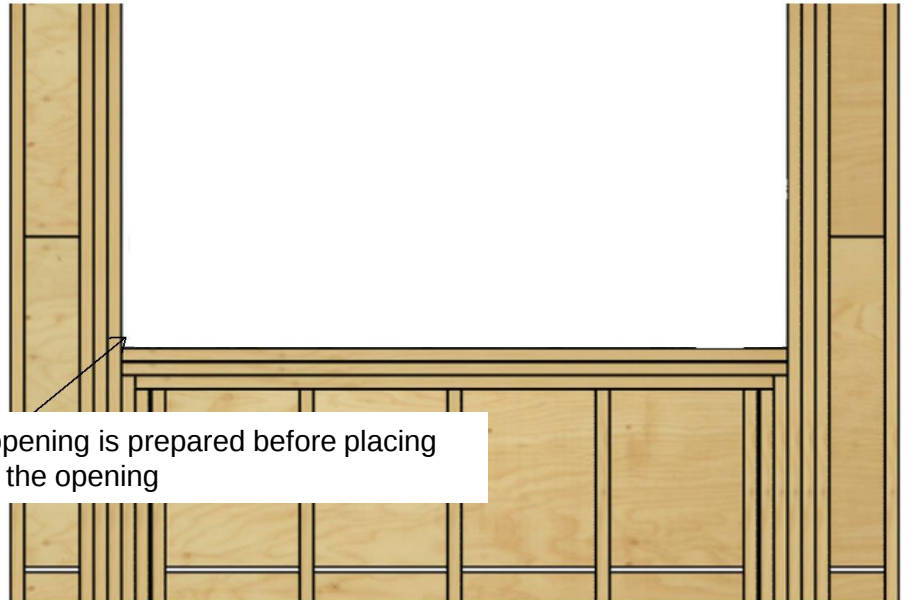
Last Step: Leveling Shims.

Level your shim stacks across the window opening using a laser or bubble level. Once the shims are positioned and leveled in the prepared window opening, secure them in place with a piece of tape to prevent knocking them over while placing the window on top.

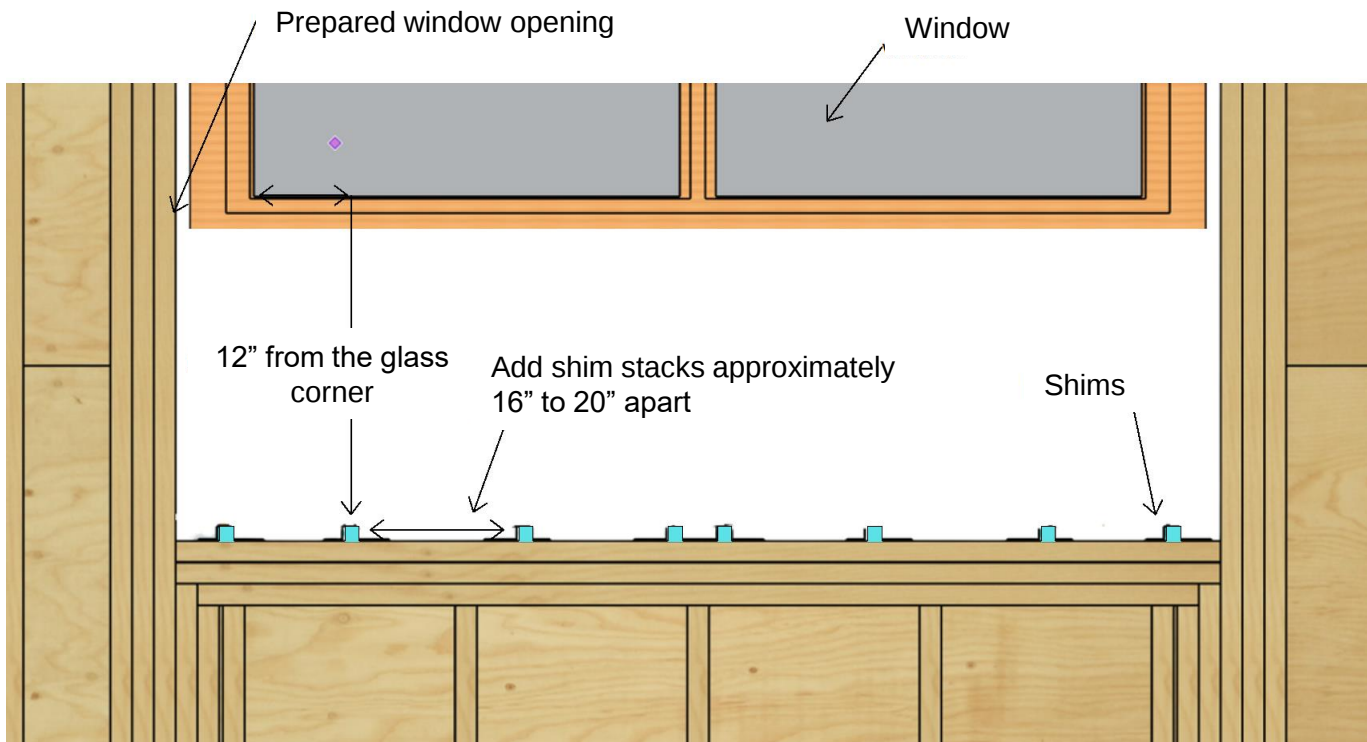
See graphics in the following pages in reference to this step.

Step 2 (Continued): Shimming

NOTE: Position the shim stacks using your best judgment. Make sure the weight of the glass is supported as well as the corners of the wood frame.

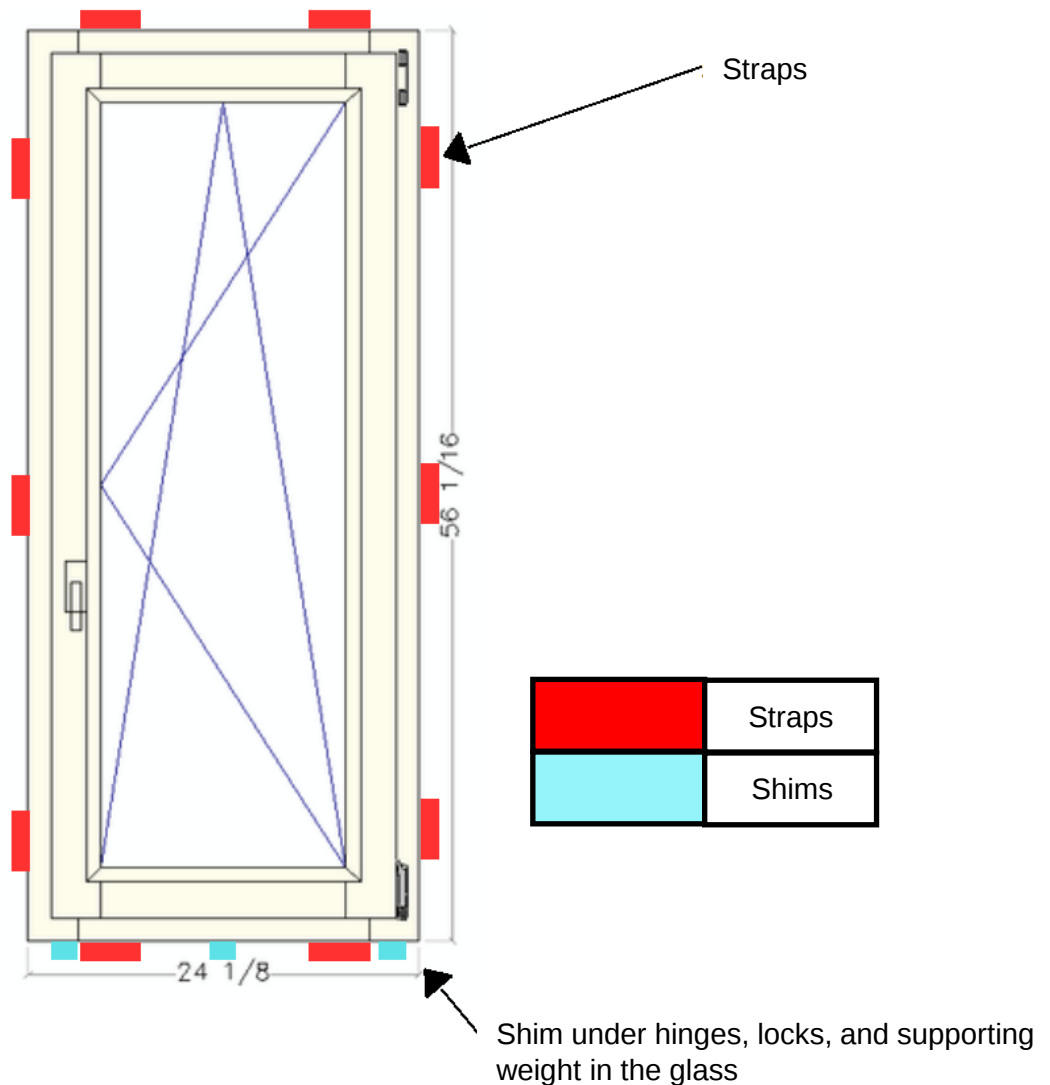


NOTE: Ensure your rough opening is prepared before placing your shims on the bottom of the opening



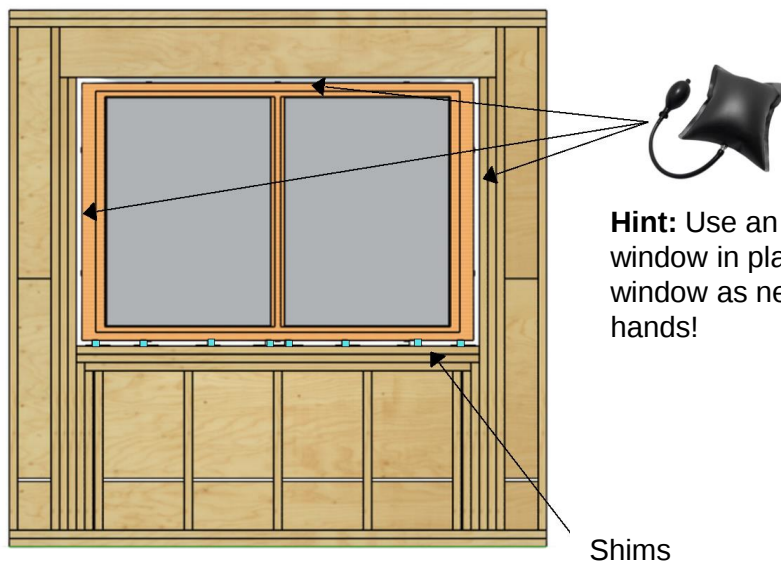
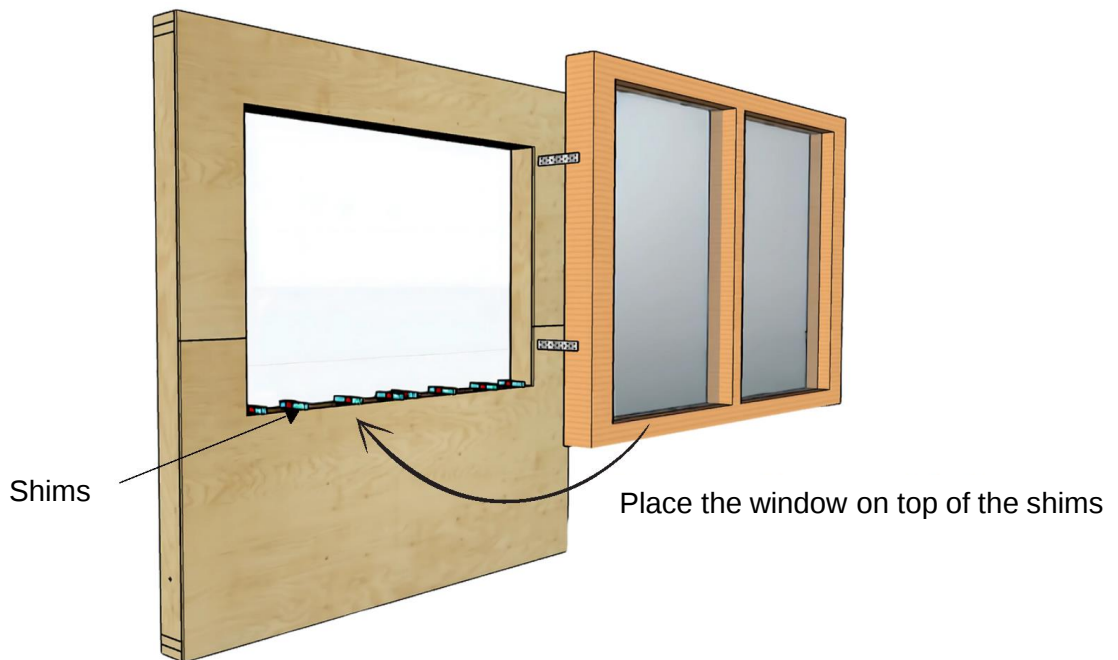
Step 2 (Continued): Shimming

Operable Window Example



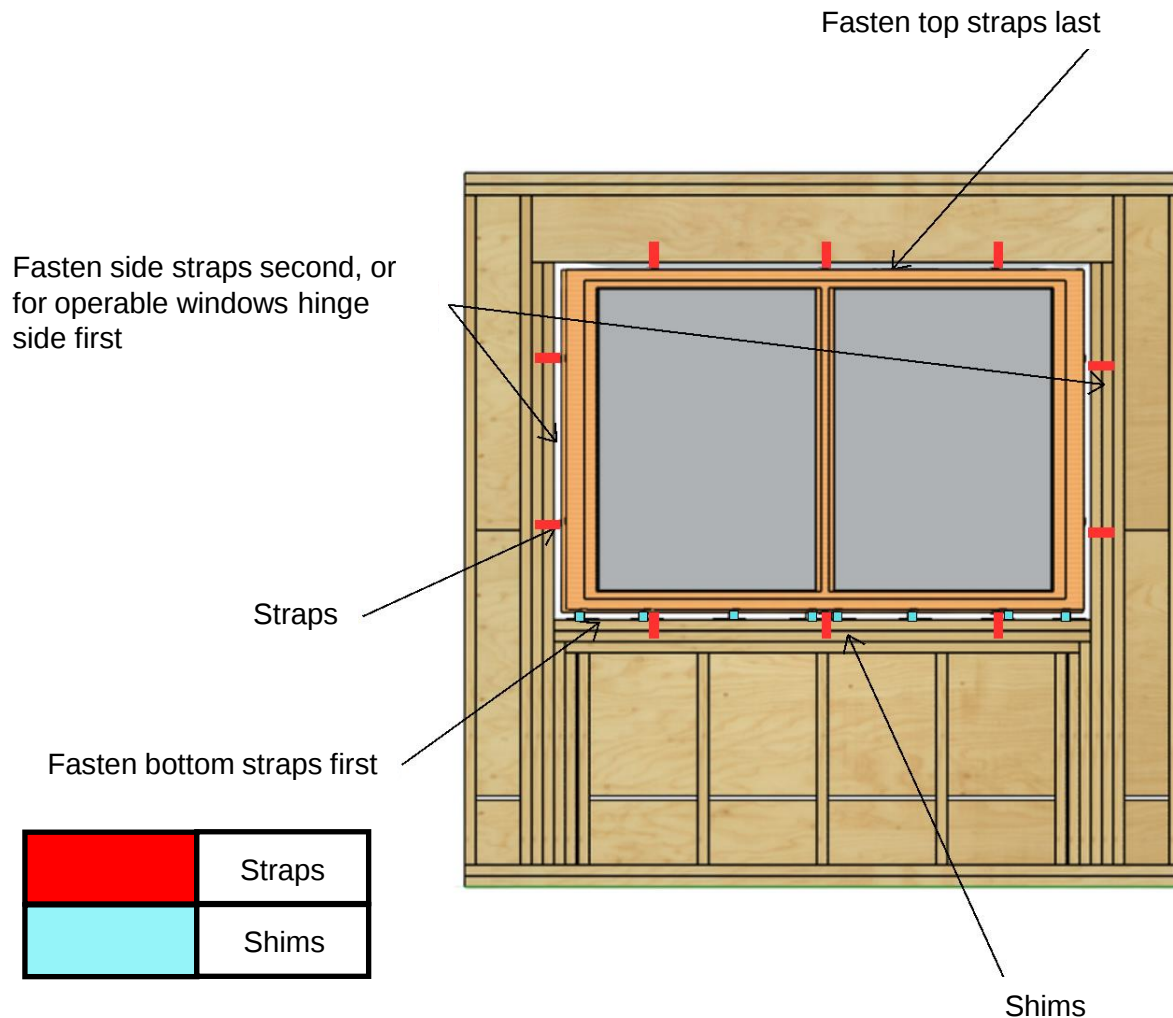
Step 3: Set the Window in Place

Place the window on top of the shims. Next, position the window within the opening from the inside, outside, and both sides according to where you want it positioned, normally dictated by your trim and sealing details. Once the window is properly positioned, you can use airbags around it to secure it or adjust its placement as needed.



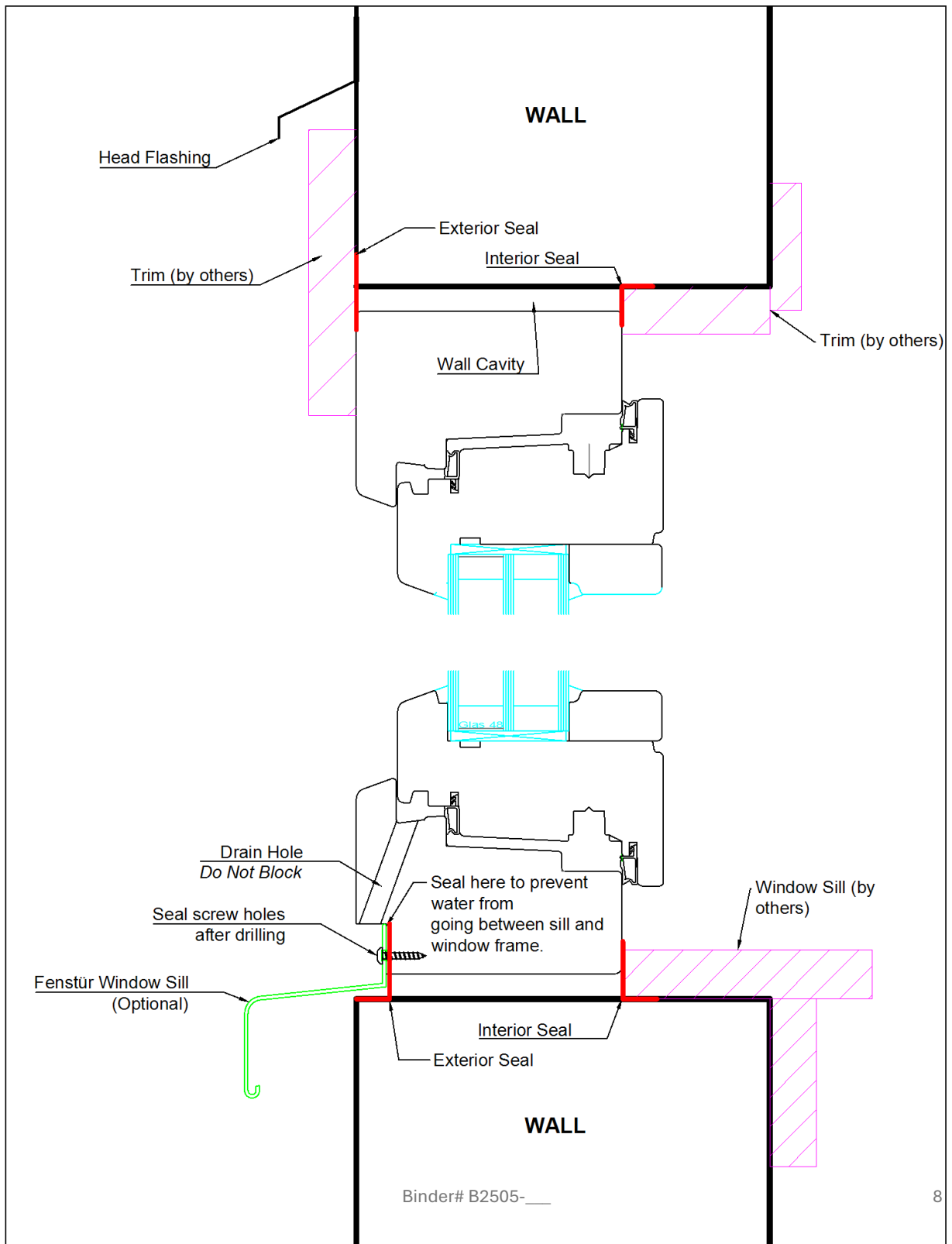
Step 4: Secure the Window

Fasten the bottom of the window first using screws, then work your way up the sides. Ensure both sides are level before securing them. For operable windows, fasten the hinge side first, followed by the opposite side. Finally, secure the top straps. If the window shifts while you are fastening it, use airbags or shims to keep it stable.

**Step 5: Adjustments**

After the windows have been fastened down on all sides, inspect the windows and adjust the hardware if needed. Remember to protect the windows during construction, read our Care and Maintenance document to learn more!

WINDOW INSTALLATION EXAMPLE



The purpose of this drawing is to show the theory of waterproofing and sealing a block frame window to a wall / in the rough opening. Block frame simply means the window frame is flat (there is no nailing flange). Note that this is a guide to installation and sealing only. You must always ensure compliancy with your local building code.

- 1) See sill details. The exact sill doesn't matter but it must be sloped for water run off, it doesn't block the drainage hole, and its sealed and attached to the rebate in the bottom of the window so water cant get behind it. The sill shown in the drawings is available through Fenstür, included when the installation package #2 is ordered.
- 2) Your interior and exterior seal are typically done in one of two ways, but there are many alternative products available to do the job intended. The ultimate goal is being that liquid water stays out of the wall, but vapors or condensation from within the wall cavity can escape out, all without having the free-flow of air through the wall causing drafts and loss of energy.

Method 1:

Exterior Seal = rod and caulk.

Interior Seal = nothing.

This is a traditional installation method in the sense that the rough opening would be prepared with the building wrap or blueskin wrapped into the opening of the window. The window is then installed, and sealed on the exterior side. This is your air and water barrier. The rough opening cavity should then be insulated, and vapors or moisture can breathe to the inside of the house or through the wall.

Method 2:

Exterior Seal = flashing tape (vapor permeable).

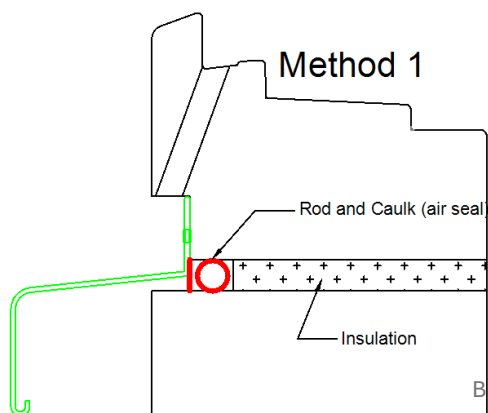
Interior Seal = rod and caulk

This method means the window is sealed air and water tight on this interior face of the window. Vapors can breathe to the exterior side, through the flashing tape which is vapor permeable, but prevents water from coming through. It is important, if using this method, that the entire wall cavity is lined with a membrane (blueskin, building paper, etc).

Vapor Permeable tapes are available from multiple suppliers, or direct from Fenstür. Brand names include Siga and Tescon.

In place of rod and caulk, alternative air (and water) tight sealing product can be used here, including tapes.

Avoid expanding foams, they do not allow breathing and can put stresses on the window frame if the wall moves or settles, particularly in new construction. Instead insulate cavities with loose insulation, like Rockwool which can be pushed in around the window.



Binder# B2505-

