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Interstate Vinyl and CompositWood® Window Installation Instructions

* Windows are shipped with a center band to keep jambs aligned. Do not remove center band until window is in the opening and shimmed. Windows are shipped unlocked to avoid lock and keeper damage. Locking the units once in the opening helps maintain a square unit.

Read all instructions completely before beginning the installation of this window. These instructions are intended to be a basic guide for installing replacement windows. Refer to ASTM or AAMA Installation Master's Program for accepted replacement window installation and flashing standards. If you require additional information for a specific window type or a new construction application, refer to details in the Installation Masters program or contact Interstate Window and Door. Failure to comply with installation standards will void the Interstate "Limited Lifetime Warranty".

Check with your local code official in regard to installation of this product. Some areas may require special installation or anchoring in order to comply with the local and state building codes.

Note: All shim references are to flat shims, which is Interstate's recommendation for all installations. Wood shims are acceptable only when used in pairs.

Before removing existing window, inspect the new unit for correct size, options and damage.

1. Prepare the opening. Make sure opening is free of all dirt and debris. Verify that the new unit can fit in the opening plumb, level and square. Interstate recommends a rough opening $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the overall unit size. Install and level shims at the sill plate **directly under jambs** if necessary (flat shims are recommended). DO NOT FORCE a window into an opening, always allow for expansion of product.
2. Installation on a sloped sill may require wood blocks along the existing windowsill to support and level the new unit. Attach the optional sill expander to the bottom of the unit and trim to fit using the score lines on the back of the expander. The sill expander is not intended for support and a $\frac{1}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{8}$ " gap is recommended between expander and existing sill.

3. Center the window in the opening. Shim the jambs of the unit at 3” down from head and 4” up from sill. (When applied, installation screw must go through shims.)
4. Shim at the center of the window to the same dimension as the width of the head and sill. From the interior, check the gaps between the sashes and the frame to make sure the reveals are even with sash felt compression no less than 35% and no more than 50%. Check the operation of the window. Adjustment of the shims may be necessary to correct gaps or operation difficulties.
5. Measure the unit diagonally in both directions to ensure that the window is square.
6. Once the window is plumb, level and square, pre-drill 5/32” holes 3” down from the head and 4” up from the sill, assure holes penetrate the previously installed shims but do not go into the rough framing. Install screws into the installation holes, through the shims, and finally a minimum of 1” into the rough framing. This will prevent twisting or bowing of the jamb. **Do not over-tighten installation screws** as this may cause corners of frame to separate. 2½” truss head screws are recommended but drywall screws are acceptable.
7. Loosely pack insulation between the frame and rough opening. Check the window operation once again by opening and closing the window. Care should be taken with packing insulation not to over-compress insulation or over-pack jamb, which will result in poor window performance. Adjust the insulation or installation screws as necessary.

CAUTION: Interstate approves the use of low expansion single-component polyurethane insulation foams such as Great Stuff Window & Door by *Dow Chemical Company*. Follow the foam manufacturer’s recommendations for application. Fill gaps only one third full to minimize distortion and squeeze-out. Allow 20 minutes for expansion prior to installing finish trim. This will allow foam to expand in a non-restricted direction and can be trimmed before finishing. Use of high expansion foams or improper application of the foam may cause the window to bow and prevent proper operation.

- A. Finish the exterior of the window. *Replacement:* Apply coil trim or trim board and seal to window using a high quality exterior sealant. *New Construction:* Apply siding, brick veneer, stucco or other exterior finish leaving ¼” gap around the entire window frame to allow for expansion of materials. Insert closed cell foam backer rod between the window and rough opening leaving ¼” depth for an exterior sealant. Apply a bead of high quality exterior grade sealant to the entire perimeter of the window at the backer rod location. Do not leave any gaps or voids in the sealant where water can penetrate into the home.

Note: New construction units must be wrapped and sealed following the Installation Masters Block Frame (Non-Flanged) Window in Membrane/Drainage Wall System installation.

- B. Finish the interior of the window and seal trim with a paintable sealant. Check the window once again for proper installation prior to adding interior trim. Clean the window and remove all debris from the job site.
- C. Instruct the homeowners regarding the proper operation, features and care of their new windows.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Label Removal – NFRC on glass surface are easy peel and should not require any preparation. Please instruct homeowner **not** to remove labels in the head of the unit.

Cleaning Glass – Never clean window glass with razor blade or sharp object.

CAUTION – Screens are for protection against insects only. They are not designed as barriers to humans or pets.