

A SHORT PRIMER ON RESTORING WOOD WINDOWS

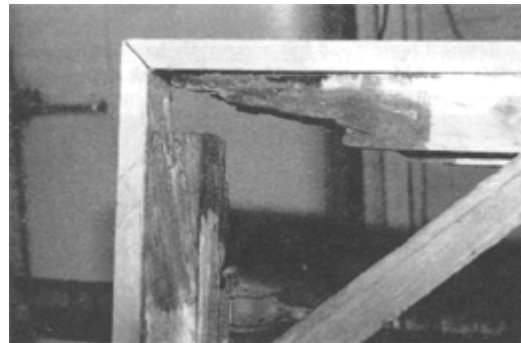
Crucial to maintaining the character and appearance of an older building is restoring the windows and original fenestration. Replacing the original windows is often prohibitive in price because window sizes are nonstandard and the original structure has settled over the years making the window openings out of square. In addition, some sills, are built into the structure in such a way that they cannot be removed without disassembling the surrounding structure. The owner of the 1860 house had covered the sill with a sheet of metal siding because, at the time, no other alternative appeared feasible.



The restoration of deteriorated windowsills, sash and frames is accomplished with **LiquidWood** wood consolidant and **WoodEpoxy** wood replacement compound. Like painting, the most time consuming part of the restoration is surface preparation. Old paint, dirt and any loose material should be removed with paint remover or by scraping and sanding. Any soft, deteriorated wood should be left in place as it will be consolidated with **LiquidWood**.



With that job out of the way, **LiquidWood** can now be applied to the deteriorated wood. One part of **LiquidWood A** is thoroughly mixed with one part **LiquidWood B**. After waiting about 5 to 10 minutes after mixing, the A/B blend is then applied directly to the deteriorated wood where it is absorbed like water is absorbed into a sponge. It should be reapplied until the wood is saturated and will no longer absorb it.



LiquidWood can be applied with a brush or simply poured onto the wood. Since it penetrates best along the grain, more thorough penetration can be obtained by drilling small holes, 1/8 inch or larger, across the grain of the wood, and pouring **LiquidWood** into the holes. Holes can be drilled in horizontal surfaces, like sills, from the top. On vertical surfaces, holes can be drilled from the side and down at an oblique angle. A plastic squeeze bottle with a pointed nozzle is a good dispenser for injecting **LiquidWood** into holes.

Before **LiquidWood** has completely hardened, usually within several hours, depending on the weather, **WoodEpoxy** can be applied on top of it to fill voids, splits and replace missing sections of wood. One part **WoodEpoxy A** is thoroughly mixed with one part **WoodEpoxy B**. It can be mixed with a stick or with gloved hands, if the quantity is not too large. When you think it is mixed well enough, mix it a little longer, as incomplete mixing results in "soft" spots which must be removed. **WoodEpoxy** can be applied with a putty knife or trowel, or even patted in place by hand.

When using these materials, care must be taken not to get them on skin or clothes. If you do get some on your skin, wash with soap and water.

To shape **WoodEpoxy** where a section of wood is missing, a mold or form can be made from pieces of wood, cardboard, plastic or anything that will hold the desired shape. The part of the mold or form which comes in contact with **WoodEpoxy** should be covered with plastic (a trash bag will do nicely) or coated with wax (heavy paste wax works well) so it does not stick where the **WoodEpoxy** has hardened.

If restoring a window sash, or any structures where two pieces of wood may tend to flex, a dowel pin can be inserted where the two pieces join for added fastening.

When the **WoodEpoxy** has hardened, it can be sanded, planed and worked like wood. The restored wood can be painted, preferably within two to three days of restoration. **WoodEpoxy** can also be stained, which is particularly important for restoring interior woodwork and furniture. The restored window will maintain its integrity indefinitely, even in the toughest climates.

