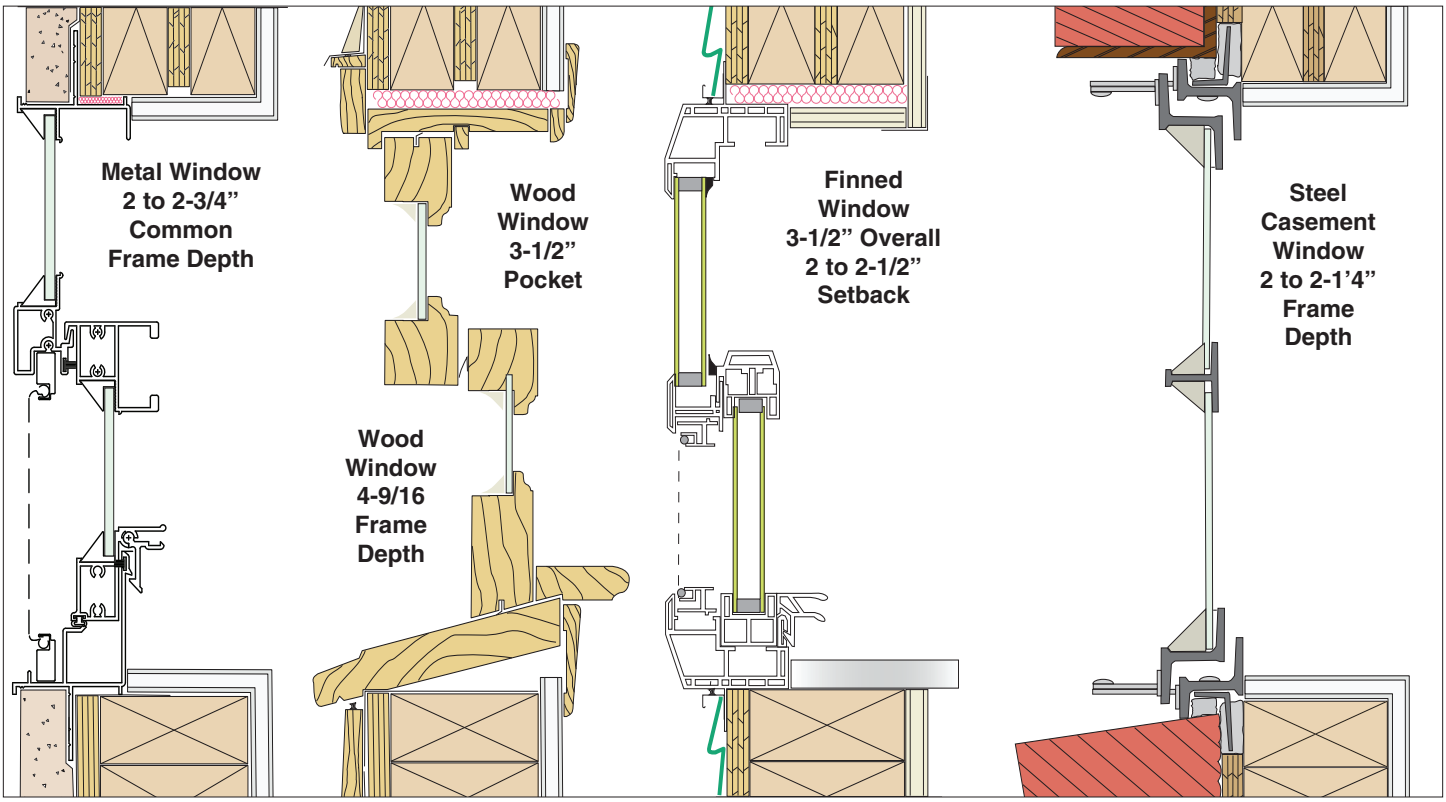
Frame Depth



The importance of proper measurement must also take into account depth, because the depth of the opening after removing the old window, will determine the order size of the window and the method of installation and requirements for finish trim inside and out.

Standard 2 x 4 construction, with sheathing on the exterior and wall board or sheetrock on the interior has, for the most part, standardized measurements. From the outside surface of the sheathing to interior surface of the wall, the default dimension will be 4 and 9/16 inches.

The residential window universe consists of three basic window frame materials – pretty much distributed evenly when it comes to existing windows needing replacement: Wood frame, Metal frame (steel and aluminum), and Vinyl frame (similar with composites).

Window size is influenced by whether the old window and its trim is removed down to the rough opening; or if the window is removed and the old trim remains; or if the old frame of the window remains and only the operating and glass panels are removed.

If the old window and trim is removed down to the rough opening, the replacement window will be as big as possible to fill the opening. This can be important because the bulkier frame material for modern replacement windows tend to reduce the glass area that is not always desirable to the consumer – especially for smaller windows.

If the trim remains, then the replacement window will need to fit to it, altering and probably increasing the needed work to install the new window.

If the old frame is left intact the new window needs to butt to it, fit inside it, or sit on top of the frame; again influencing the cost and complexity of the installation of the new window.

The illustrations show common existing conditions for old windows to be replaced. The next illustrations show the various openings after either partial or full removal of the old window.

Whatever method is chosen, proper installation is possible remembering to accommodate the water, moisture, air, thermal and vapor barriers. Best practices for all are covered in detail throughout this manual.

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Various Openings Can be Created When Old Windows are Removed

Old Wood Window – Removing the old sash and parting stops or aluminum track leaves a perfect opening for a "pocket Install" from inside or out.

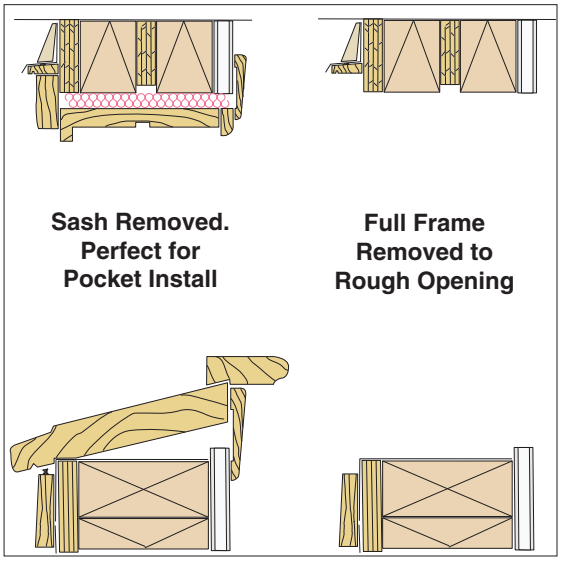
Finned Window – Common mount for residential windows of wood or pvc. When removed, and the interior wall board and sill remain, then the new window will need to fit to the old trim or mount on top of the sill and beneath the header and filled accordingly.

Old Aluminum Window – New windows can be mounted on top of the old frame if left intact, or butted to the interior finish if removed. Removing the interior trim will allow all options for install.

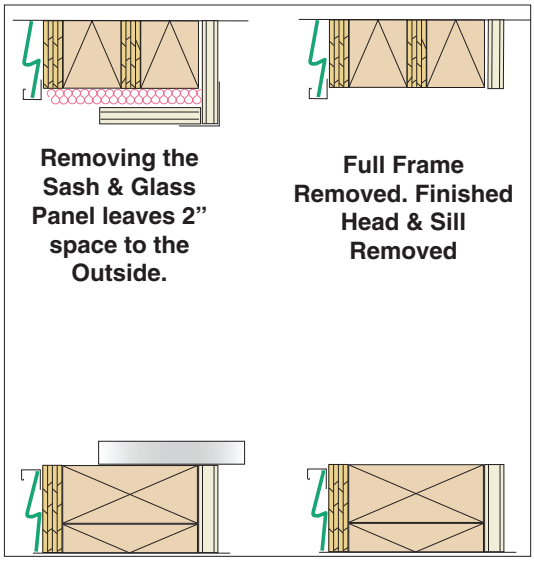
Old Steel Window – Most common in brick veneer buildings or other masonry applications. Leaving the old frame in, the new window needs to mount butting the frame or on top.

Totally removing the frame requires some work to patch, but allows most any type of new window to be installed.

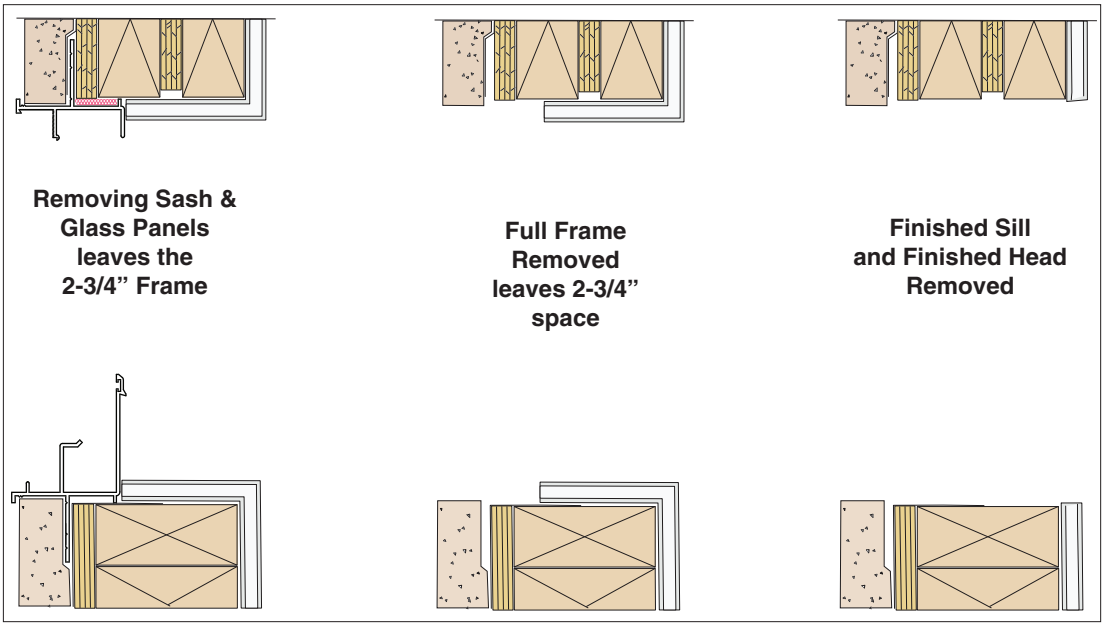
Old Wood Window



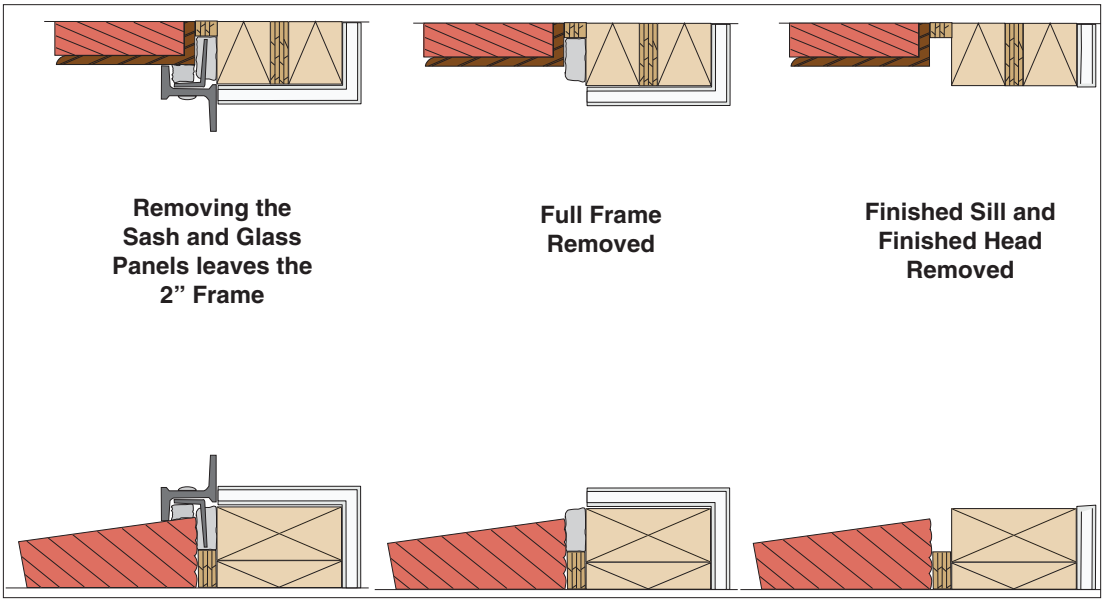
Old Finned Window



Old Aluminum Window



Old Steel Window



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