

Sagging Winne Windows

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Older things sag... like the Winnebago side windows.

APPROX. MODIFICATION TIME: Varies

PARTS LIST: 3/8 X 1/16 Butyl Putty tape, wood shims

APPROX. COST OF PARTS: \$4 per window

TOOLS NEEDED: Philips screw driver (a screw gun works best), Putty Knife, Cleaning Solvent, Hammer, Large straight Screwdriver, single edge razor blade. This project is best done on a hot day with the window being repaired left setting in the direct sun for several hours. This will soften the Butyl putty tape and may allow the window to be raised back up without having to remove the window frame from the Motor Home. If the window has to be removed then new Butyl tape must be applied to the frame. Oh yes a helper who don't mind standing and pushing on the window while you try to get it out and the can hold it while you get the screws back in.

INSTRUCTIONS

First remove all the stuff that is in your way (Blinds, Cords, etc.) or anything keeping you from getting at the inside frame of the window. Mark the top of the trim ring with a piece of tape or something. This will ensure you get it back in the right way round later.



Remove all the screws holding the inside trim ring in place.
Then remove the trim ring (it should just fall off after you remove all the screws).

At this point you have a decision to make. Can you lift the window back into position or does it have to come out? If the window has been in the direct sun on a hot day you may be able to pry it back up with the large screwdriver. If not then remove the window from the coach. This will take some hard pushing and gentle prying on the frame from both inside and outside. Be very careful when prying on the frame you can dent the side of the coach or worse break the glass if you are too rough with the frame. Just take your time and it will come loose. A trick is to use a single edge razor to cut the tape loose while you pry the frame out. *That helper needs to show up at about this time.*



Once you have the frame out clean all the old tape off the lip. If you pull on the tape then use the pieces you get off to stick and pull off more (like removing chewing gum). The cleaning solvent can be used to get the last traces off the frame (it doesn't have to look like it just came out of the box a little left behind won't hurt).

Once you have the frame clean then apply the new tape. The tape should be 3/8 inches wide and 1/16 thick. Be sure to make your seam at the bottom of the frame.

As you can see in the above picture the opening in the sidewall is much larger than the window. This is why the windows sagged the factory did not put any shims under the bottom of the frame. Place two pieces of wood under the window frame to center it in the opening from top to bottom (a 1/4 to a 1/2 inch shim works well). Also be sure the window is centered from side to side.

No shims are necessary on the sides unless you are planning parking your Rialta in a vertical position for an extended period of time (and if you do, don't run your fridge).



Almost done (hope you not paying that helper much cause at this point all he got to do is lean on the window). Replace the trim ring **BE SURE YOU GET IT BACK THE WAY IT CAME OUT SO THE HOLES WILL LINE BACK UP!** Remember that mark we put at the top?

Reinstall the screws **BE VERY CAREFUL HERE THE SCREWS CAN STRIP VERY EASELY, WORK YOUR WAY AROUND TIGHTING THEM A LITTLE AT A TIME!**
And if you are using a screw gun, use low gear!

Now check the outside of the frame you may see some of the butyl tape oozing from beneath the frame. **LEAVE IT ALONE!** For a couple days anyway, give it time to settle or else you will be trimming it several times. After it sets a few days trim off the excess with the razor blade (the old chewing gum trick comes into play again here).

That's IT! Your sagging windows are cured and you did not have to make a trip to Victoria Secrets!