

## Stain-Fighting Solutions

For stains that prove to be more difficult to remove, use the readily available household cleaners listed in the following table. Be sure to closely follow the manufacturer's instructions for each cleaner. SoftLite does not guarantee nor warrant the effectiveness of each individual product.

This list is based upon a study conducted by the Vinyl Window and Door Institute on the efficiency of popular cleaning agents and their effects on the appearance of vinyl windows and doors. Alternative products made by other manufacturers may or may not be as effective.

If you choose to use a mildly abrasive cleaner such as Soft Scrub with bleach, Ajax, Bon Ami, or other cleaning agents, please be aware that these abrasives may affect the appearance of glass and vinyl surfaces. Be sure to test the effects of these cleaners on a small, unseen portion of the window before proceeding.

DO NOT use cleaners containing aggressive organic solvents because they could affect the surface appearance of the vinyl. Examples of such cleaners include chlorine bleach, liquid grease remover, strong soaps and detergents containing organic solvents, nail polish remover, and furniture polish and cleaners.



POSSIBLE STAIN	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
Bubble gum	Fantastik, Murphy's Oil Soap, Simple Green, or Vinegar and Water Solution (30/70%)
Crayon	Lestoil or Simple Green
DAP (oil-based caulk)	Fantastik
Felt-tip pen	Fantastik, Water-based cleaners, or Simple Green
Grass	Fantastik, Lysol, Simple Green, or Murphy's Oil Soap
Lipstick	Fantastik, Lysol, Simple Green, or Murphy's Oil Soap
Lithium Grease	Fantastik, Lestoil, Murphy's Oil Soap, or Simple Green
Mold/Mildew	Fantastik, Windex, or Vinegar and Water Solution (30/70%)
Motor oil	Fantastik, Lysol, Windex, Simple Green, or Murphy's Oil Soap
Oil	Soft Scrub with bleach
Paint	Soft Scrub with bleach
Pencil	Soft Scrub with bleach or Simple Green
Rust	Fantastik, Windex, Simple Green, or Murphy's Oil Soap
Tar	Soft Scrub with bleach
Top soil/dirt	Fantastik, Lestoil, Simple Green, or Murphy's Oil Soap



## MAINTAINING SOFTLITE VINYL WINDOWS AND DOORS

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## Easily Maintain the Beauty and Function of Your SoftLite Vinyl Windows and Doors

Vinyl windows and doors are virtually maintenance-free. However, as with

any product exposed to atmospheric conditions, they will become dirty and require cleaning.

In most cases, exterior dirt and grime will wash away during the next heavy rainstorm. But for everything else, your vinyl windows and doors can retain their "brand new" look with minimal effort. These tips will help keep your SoftLite windows looking and working their best for decades.

### Interior/Exterior Care:

- Always wash the frames and sashes with a soft cloth or an ordinary long-handled, soft-bristle brush.
- To remove most common dirt and grime, use a solution of mild dish-washing detergent and warm water.
- Rinse the window. Use your favorite glass cleaner and soft cloth or paper towel for the interior or exterior of the glass.
- **NEVER wash the windows with power washers, high-pressure sprays, guns, or hoses.**
- **Keep windows locked when they are closed, this helps with efficiency, security, and operation.**

### ATTENTION

**BE CAREFUL** and use all common safety methods to minimize the risk of hazard.

**NEVER** lean out the windows to clean the exterior glass or window frame.

**DO NOT** depend on the window screen for support or retention. Screens will not prevent someone from falling out the window.

**CAUTION!** Most severe window accidents occur on the first floor of the home.

**IF YOU FEEL** unable to maintain your windows safely, hire a licensed and insured professional window-cleaning service.



## Double-Hung/Single-Hung Windows

*To clean the exterior glass, first tilt in the bottom sash:*

- Be sure the window is unlocked.
- Raise the window sash approximately 3".
- Grasp each side of the sash and use your index fingers to disengage the tilt latches.
- Slowly lower the sash to a convenient cleaning level.
- Clean the exterior surface (using glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel). You will need to support the sash with a chair (or similar item) or have someone else hold the sash securely with both hands while you clean it.
- Return the sash to its original position and be sure both tilt latches click into place.

*To tilt in the top sash (double-hung windows only)*

- Tilt in the lower sash following the above instructions.
- Support the lower sash by using a chair or similar item for stable support. Be sure to pad the support to prevent damage, and that the sash is supported by the sash frame - not the glass.
- Pull upper sash down 4-6" inches above lower sash.
- Grasp each side of the sash and use your index fingers to disengage the tilt latches.
- Slowly tilt in sash and lay it on top of the lower sash.
- Clean the exterior surface (using glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel) by supporting the sash with one hand and cleaning with the other.
- Return the upper sash to its original position and be sure both tilt latches click into place.
- Return the lower sash to its original position and be sure both tilt latches click into place.

## Sliding Patio Doors

- Clean the interior/exterior glass with a glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel.
- Use the brush attachment on a vacuum cleaner to remove dirt from the patio door tracks. You can also wipe down the tracks with a household cleaner and a clean cloth, then rinse with water and a clean cloth.
- If needed, you can lubricate the tracks with a silicone spray to ease the operation of the sliding panel but only after the dirt and debris has been removed.

## Slider Windows

*To clean the exterior glass,*

- Unlock the locking mechanism on the sash.
- Slide sash to its fully opened position.
- Grasp sash on either side and lift it into the head of the window until the bottom sash clears the sill.
- Swing the bottom of the sash in toward the interior of the home to clear the frame and lower the sash out of the window frame.
- Place sash on a soft, padded surface and clean the glass surface with glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel.
- Replace sash into frame by repeating the above steps in reverse order.



## Casement Windows

- Remove the screen by pushing it to one side and pulling toward you.
- Unlock the window by lifting the lock mechanism on the side jamb.
- Crank sash open to 90 degrees.
- Reach between the sash and frame to clean the exterior glass surface, using glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel.
- Crank the window to its closed position and lock.
- Clean the interior of the window once it is closed with glass cleaner and a soft cloth or paper towel.
- Replace the screen in the opposite manner as you removed it.

