How to: Frame and Install Windows

At Shed Windows and More, Inc. we offer a wide range of window sizes and shapes. For our purpose here we will just address the vertical slider (single hung) windows.

The window frame is important when building a shed since it supports the weight of the wall around the opening using the various studs to transfer the load to the foundation. Starting at the top wall plate the stud called the cripple stud transfers the load from the top plate to the header (two 2x4's nailed together). At the sides both the jack and king studs support the header and transfers the load to the soleplate or floor. The bottom of the window opening we again use two, 2x4's that are nailed together to form what is called a sill (some call it a rough sill) which while supported by a cripple stud does itself not support any of the wall weight, but merely acts as a place to anchor the base of the window. (See figure 1.)





The rough opening or buck size can be obtained by going to our catalog page. You should always make your hole at least ¼" larger than the size of the window you are going to use. If you are using an out-door T-111 type siding on the outside of your shed you can use either the flush mounted window or J channel (sometimes called J lap) window. After attaching the T-111 to the outside of the framing it is time to cutout the opening for the window. Drill a hole at each corner using a 5/8" drill bit in-order to make the holes large enough to accept a tape measure for marking your cutting lines on the outer siding and the saw blade of your saber saw to cutout the opening. Before cutting you should fasten a straight, 1x3 board to the siding along the lines to use as a fence to guide the saw blade. Be sure when fastening this guide board that the holes left by these fasteners can be covered by any molding you are going to use. (See Figure 2 & 3) Be sure to take the width of your saws base-plate (including width of the blade) into account when setting the fence board.





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If you are using a vinyl siding, the J channel window should be used since it offers a separate channel to accept the vinyl siding. Some people also like to use this channel on the T-111 to use with their trim boards around the windows. (See Figure 4.)

Remember whenever you are cutting out a hole to add a vent or some other items to always make note where your studs are located and to plan ahead if at all possible.

To actually install the window, place it in the hole that you just cutout. Be sure to run a bead of caulk under the nail/screw flange before attaching the window. It is recommended to use $#8 \times 1-1/2''$ Pock Hole Screws in each hole provided in the flange for both aesthetics and maximum endurance.

