

14.6 REMOVAL OF ENTIRE WINDOW: MOUNTING FLANGE WINDOWS

Removing mounting flange windows is different from removing block frame windows. However, the existing flashing and weather barrier materials must also be repaired and integrated with the new window. Although every opportunity should be explored to eliminate the need to completely remove the window, there will be cases when complete removal is necessary.

When removal of the entire existing mounting flange window is required, the installer should exercise caution to avoid damaging any of the existing building materials during the removal process. The recommended method of removal is to expose the mounting flange, pull the anchors, and remove the window intact. Collapsing the frame of a mounting flange window is not recommended and should be avoided.

Ideally, the replacement of mounting flange windows would allow for the use of 9" wide flashing materials as required in new construction installation. Due to aesthetic reasons, however, this would require a much wider cut than might be acceptable to the homeowner. Whenever it is practical to remove the exterior façade to allow for 9" wide flashing the installer should do so, but in cases where the homeowner insists on limiting the amount of removal, the cutout can be reduced to a 3" minimum. When reducing the cutout to 3", the use of 4" wide (minimum) self-adhesive flashing is required.

See the following sections for the proper removal and repair of the existing opening.

14.6.1 Wall with Wood or Stucco Siding

1. Remove exterior trim. If it will be reused, take care not to damage the trim.
2. If the mounting flange was installed over the siding, simply remove the fasteners and pull out the entire window unit.
3. If the fin is covered by siding, cut out a strip of siding around the perimeter of the window (*see Figure 14-12*).
 - Mark a line on the siding around the window. It must be past the edge of the mounting flange (minimum 3" cut) to allow for integration of the new flashing materials, but not as wide as the casing to be installed.
 - Using a circular saw with a carbide-tipped blade, set the blade slightly less than the thickness of the siding (approximately 1/32" to 1/16"). Cut the marked lines.
 - Remove siding and expose the nailing fins (*see Figure 14-13*).
 - Pry the nails from the fins.
 - Remove the window from the opening.
4. If the fin is covered by stucco, follow the procedures in Step 3, but use a masonry cutting blade.

Note: Since a large amount of dust may be produced, and protective measures are recommended.