

WHITE PAPER

The Evolution of Window Screen Installation

RITESCREEN™



When it's time to replace your window screen, you can either DIY the project or spend extra money to hire a contractor. Many people are surprised to learn it's an easy project to do without the help of a pro, whether or not you're an avid DIYer or you're just starting to try your hand at fixing things around your house yourself.

Start this simple project by learning how to install a standard window screen, how to install your self-customizable RiteFit window screen, and common issues people face when DIYing their new window screen install. Plus, find out how RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screens take the guesswork out of measuring, ordering, and installing your new screen.

How to Install Traditional Window Screens

Step 1: Remove the Old Screen (if available)

Before you can install your new window screen, you need to take out your old one (if there). There are two ways to do it: from the inside or the outside.

To remove the old window screen from the inside:

1. Open the window fully.
2. Pull the tabs on the screen toward you. If your screen doesn't have tabs, it may have a pin or a latch that helps it disengage from the window.
3. Tilt the screen so it is easier to remove. Because of its flexibility, you should be able to maneuver it easily. If it seems stuck, check if you missed any pins that could be locking it into place.

To remove the old window screen from the outside:

1. Remove the frame starting at the lower left corner.
2. Gently push the window screen frame away from the corner, which will expose more of the sides.

3. Slide a putty knife or flat head screwdriver into the gap you have created to help create more space between the screen and the frame track.
4. Gently tilt the screen up while pulling the rest of the window screen out toward the bottom of the window.
5. Use the screwdriver or putty knife to pull the right frame corner from the pocket.
6. Pull the rest of the frame down and away from the window.

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Step 2: Identify the Correct Side of Your New Screen

Your new window screen has two sides: one with a solid edge and the other with a recessed groove space holding the black vinyl or foam spline. The side with the spline usually faces the outside.

Step 3: Slide Your Window Into the Track

Open your window fully, and slide the screen into the track with the recessed spline-side facing out. Slide it all the way to the bottom slot.

This is even easier if your window is on the ground level where outdoor access is easily reachable without an extendable ladder. Simply slide it into the track without the need to open your window fully.

Step 4: Snap the Tabs Into Place

Your new window screen will likely have pull tabs or plunger pins to keep it in place. Once the screen is in the correct spot, rotate the tabs or engage the plunger pins.

Step 5: Inspect the Screen

Double-check your window screen to ensure it is in the tracks and flush with the bottom. Lightly press the corners of the screen to check that it has a snug fit.

Choose a RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screen for Easy Installation

Order Your Custom RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screen

RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screens are designed to give you a custom fitting window screen so you always know the screen you order will fit your window. RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screens feature proprietary compression and expansion pannels on each side to ensure the perfect fit and help mitigate measuring mistakes prior to an order. Before you can install your new RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screen, our window screen experts must first know your UI, or United Inch. This is simply determined by measuring and combining your replacement screen's width and height in inches.

Traditionally, measuring this is the most critical step in ordering new window screens as a mere fraction of an inch can deem your new window screens unusable. But with RiteFit proprietary technology, we'll build you a window screen that fits your window without the pressure of an exact measurement fraction—guaranteed.

From a measurement standpoint, our screen experts are only looking at a range of two whole numbers due to the compression and expansion profiles. This allows the homeowner to stay away from messy measurement fractions and allows our team to make the perfect fitting window screen.

How to Measure:

1. Measure your window opening from side-to-side and provide the two whole numbers to the end or edge that the measurement falls between. In the example below the range falls between 28" and 29".



2. Now, measure the height, from the bottom window sill to the bottom of the top window's sash. Again, identify the two whole numbers that the measurement falls between. In the example below the range falls between 28" and 29".



How to Install a RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screen

Step 1: Prep your Space

Open your window as high as possible, and remove the old screen. If your window is accessible from the outside without an extendable ladder, simply remove the old screen, and you can leave your window closed.

Step 2: Align Your New Screen

With the pull tabs or plunger pins facing inside, position your new screen on its side to fit it through the window opening.



Step 4: Place Your Screen in the Track

Place one side of the screen into the track, firmly gripping the pull tabs or plunger pins of the other side. Align it with the track, and gently place them in. Let the screen go, and the spring-loaded tension will hold it securely in place.



Step 5: Make Adjustments

Adjust the vinyl bug strip so it is sealed tightly against the window. Use the grooved lines as a guide to achieve the desired width, then tear it all the way across.

Common Issues People Face When Replacing Their Window Screen

You order the wrong size window screen. Unfortunately, traditional or standard window screens are unforgiving when it comes to sizing due to many factors. One of the hardest parts of DIYing your window screen isn't the installation itself, but the measurement prior to the order to make sure you order the correct window screen size in the first place, or you might push back your completion date.

The old window screen is stuck. There can be a few reasons why your old window screen is difficult to remove. First, check to make sure you didn't miss any pins or pull tabs that keep it in place. Or, your screen might be painted shut. If this is the case, you will need to carefully break the paint seal using a flathead screwdriver, utility knife, or putty knife. Focus on the area where the screen meets the frame to prevent any damage to the frame.



Take the Guesswork Out of DIYing Your Window Screen Replacement With RiteFit by RiteScreen Multi-Fit Window Screens (Coming Fall 2022!)

One of the most challenging steps of DIYing your window screen replacement is measuring and ordering the correct size. That's why we developed the RiteFit by RiteScreen Custom window screen.

Quality and Fit You Can Count On

- **No-Hassle Measuring and Ordering.** With our proprietary frame technology, you just need to know your window frame measurement to the nearest 1", making it easier than ever to order the screen you need.
- **Guaranteed Fit and Quality.** Feel confident your screen will fit and last with our patent-pending spring-loaded fit technology inside the highest-quality, custom extruded aluminum frame with sturdy mesh.
- **Ready to Install.** The product ships assembled, does not require on-site alterations, and offers exemplary performance with low maintenance requirements.
- **Works for the Majority of DIYers and Windows.** This product makes DIY window installation easy and works in homes with single-hung, half-screen windows.
- **An Earned Reputation.** RiteScreen is America's oldest and largest independent window and patio door screen manufacturer.
- **Experts at Your Fingertips.** Live customer service chat is always available at ritefitbyritescreen.com.

To start your easy DIY window screen installation project, head to our website and follow the simple instructions for ordering your RiteFit by RiteScreen Custom Window Screen.

