

WHITE PAPER

How to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement



RITESCREEN™

This seemingly daunting task is surprisingly easy to DIY—as long as you know how to properly read a tape measure. Learn the signs it's time to replace your window screen instead of patching your current one, the ins and outs of using a tape measure, and how you can measure windows for screen replacement.

Is It Time to Replace Your Window Screen?

Before you can measure for a window screen replacement, you have to decide that it's time to pursue this project. How do you know if your window screen has reached its end of life?

Check for these signs:

- Generally speaking, window screens average a 15-year lifespan. This is dependent on a number of factors including, but not limited to: weather, winter protection (i.e. window screens are removed in winter months), damage, cleaning, and whether the screens came with the original windows or were replacements
- It has punctures or tears that can't be patched. Many people have luck patching minor tears on window screens. If yours is larger than a patch can efficiently cover, it's time to replace your window screen
- It is impacting your desired lifestyle. A standard mesh screen may have worked for a while, but if it's no longer meeting your needs, it's time for a change. This often happens when someone gets a new pet and they need a more durable screen, or they want more protection against the elements
- Corners are faded or broken. Corners are tough to patch, so you'll likely need to start over with an entirely new screen

- There is corrosion on the frame. In this case, you'll need to replace your frame, so it's also time to change your window screen
- The mesh is loose or shiny. These are signs that your window screen has reached its end of life. A shiny screen is indicative of weather damage, while the loose mesh shows the screen no longer has the required durability

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How to Read a Tape Measure

You've heard the advice: measure twice, cut once. When it comes to measuring for your window screen replacement, your mantra should be measure twice, order once to ensure you receive the appropriate product size for your window and patio door screen needs. Before you even get started measuring, it's important to know how to properly read a tape measure.

Tips for Accurately Reading a Metal Tape Measure

There are markers on your tape measure that provide measurement down to 1/16". In order of biggest to smallest increments, your tape measure will provide the following measurements:

- Inch
- 1/2-inch
- 1/4-inch
- 1/8-inch
- 1/16-inch

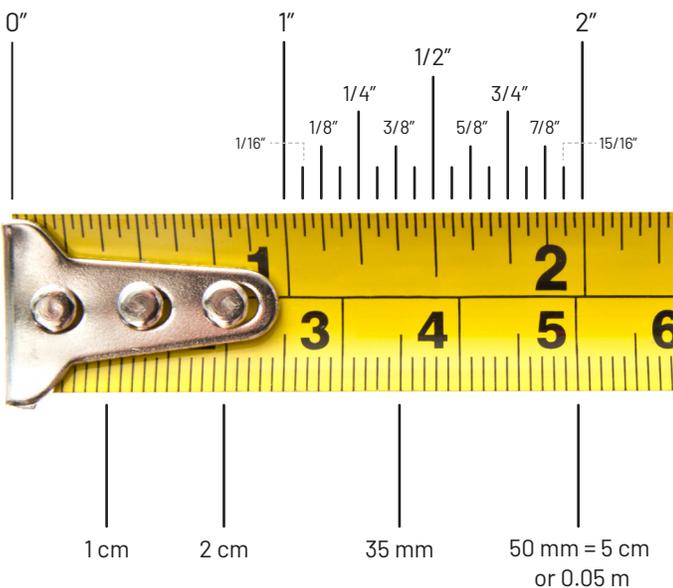
Between each inch marker, there are 15 lines that vary in size depending on what fraction of an inch is the right measurement. The largest marks on the tape are the inch markers, and the number to the left is the inch measurement. The lines decrease in length as the measurement gets smaller, with the smallest line indicating a measurement down to 1/16-inch.

Note: Some tape measures also include metric measurements (centimeters and millimeters). Be sure you are reading the correct side!

Causes of Inaccuracies When Measuring for a Window Screen Replacement

Even if you know how to properly read a tape measure, there are still some issues that may impact the accuracy of your measurement.

- **Using an uncalibrated tape measure or one that is old and bent.** A properly calibrated tape measure is accurate within 1/64". This small difference in measurement won't cause inaccuracies when ordering your window screen replacement. A tape measure that isn't calibrated or features kinks can cause a greater difference in measurement that might impact the success of your replacement
- **Using a low-quality tape measure or cloth tape measure.** Unfortunately, you can't assume your new tape measure is accurate. While each manufacturer has its own guidelines for quality control, there is a chance you can purchase one from a bad batch or the producer doesn't have the right processes for inspection in place. This most frequently happens with budget tape measures. We do not recommend the use of a cloth tape measure



How to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement

Now that you have determined your window screen needs to be replaced and you know how to read a tape measure properly, it's time to measure your window for your screen replacement.

Supply List:

- High quality metal tape measure
- Ladder or step stool (if necessary)
- Putty knife or screwdriver if you need to remove the screen from the outside

Step 1:

To accurately measure for a new window screen, you will need to remove the existing screen from your window. Most screens are designed to be flexible, so it's easier than it might sound at first.

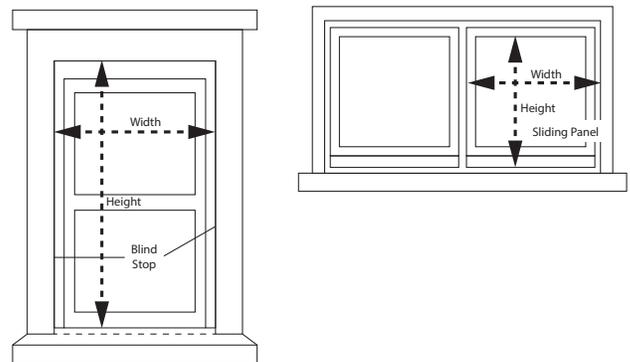
To remove the window screen from the inside:

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. Remember that it is pretty flexible, and you should be able to maneuver it easily. If it seems stuck, check to make sure you didn't miss any pins.
4. Put the screen in a safe spot, especially if you are planning on reinstalling it when you are done.



Removing it from the outside of your home takes a few more steps, but it might be necessary depending on where your window is located. You should use a putty knife or screwdriver to help make the process easier.

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 screwdriver into the gap you have created to help create more space between the screen and the frame.
4. Gently tilt the screen up while pulling the rest of the 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.
7. Put the screen in a safe spot.



Step 2: Measure the Top & Bottom

Measure the top and bottom sides, outside to outside, including the frame in the measurement. This is often the horizontal measurement of your window. You should expect to get the same measurement for the top and bottom, so it is a good indication you need to measure again if the numbers happen to be different.

Step 3: Measure the Sides

Measure the sides, outside to outside, including the frame. This is likely the vertical sides of your window. You can double-check your measurement by measuring both sides.

Step 4: Measure the Depth

Measure the depth (frame thickness). This is the side view of your window, not the frame when looking directly at it.

Step 5 (optional): Reinstall Your Window Screen

Slide your screen back into place, making sure any pins or tabs are locked in tight.

Tips to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement

- You should measure your screen down to 1/16". This will help you determine the most accurate window screen replacement rather than having to round up or down significantly
- Measure twice, order once. You can double-check your measurements by measuring at different parts of the frame. If you have a standard window with parallel sides, the length measurement should be the same no matter where you measure, as should the width measurement
- When writing down your measurements, be sure to indicate which number is the length and which is the width. The depth will be the smallest measurement by far

Choose RiteFit by RiteScreen for Your Window Screen Replacement

Durable, versatile, and aesthetically pleasing. RiteFit by RiteScreen produces window screens designed for both ease of use and long-term performance. We are the patio screen door and window screen brand that provides the best fit in the industry. We make DIY install easy.

Our screens work in 95% of the homes in America. Homeowners want a precise fit and quality that complements their home. RiteFit delivers with its proprietary fit technology, high-quality screen solutions, and a durable frame that is made to last.

Our window screens are mindfully crafted to make it easy for anyone to DIY their replacement, with a few key design features to ensure accuracy and ease of installation:

- **Heavy-Duty, Eco-Friendly Aluminum**
- **Proprietary Spring-Loaded Fit Technology**
- **Extruded Mesh:** Tight and durable
- **Corners:** Our innovative screen corners for roll-formed window screen frames are engineered to save installation time and money – with a simple press into the frame, they'll hold securely and tightly. The quality of these corners resist degradation and distortion for many years
- **Springs:** The design of RiteFit's spring steel-formed tension springs ensures durability as well as quick, easy installation
- Custom order to your door or window size
- Additional features: Wool weather stripping and bug flaps

Explore RiteFit's products at RiteFitbyRiteScreen.com and talk to our online customer experience managers. Or call us at **800-949-4174** today to start your window screen replacement project.

Pro Tip:



While you are at it, check your other screens for signs of wear and tear. Chances are if you are replacing one screen, you may have others that need replacement, also. Replace them all at once and enjoy the great outdoors all season long!