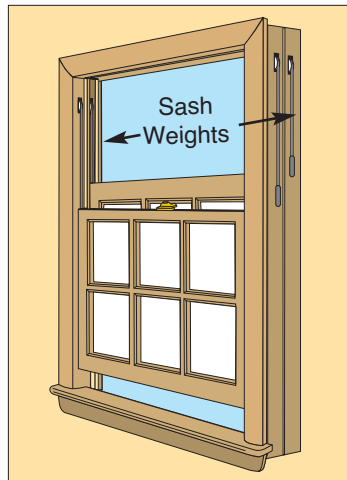


# Measuring for Full Frame Removal

Most instructions show measurements taken within the tracks from one side to the other, and from top to bottom.

These measurements are sufficient for box frame or pocket replacement - i.e., "Frame-In" replacement. However, windows are installed initially against the rough framing (the rough opening), before the interior and exterior siding is installed and trimmed out.



If the old wood window has weights, there is a weight pocket behind the jambs. The outer surface of the sloped sill of old wood windows is considerably above the rough sill; and depending on the thickness of the window sill itself, it becomes difficult to estimate the real rough opening dimensions unless the old window was totally removed. And, certainly you don't want to be removing the old window and then measuring in order to properly size the new window.

Perhaps worse is receiving the new windows on the job, removing the old windows and finding there is a mis-measure (really a mis-estimate) requiring fill-in or larger gaps that invite water and air infiltration.

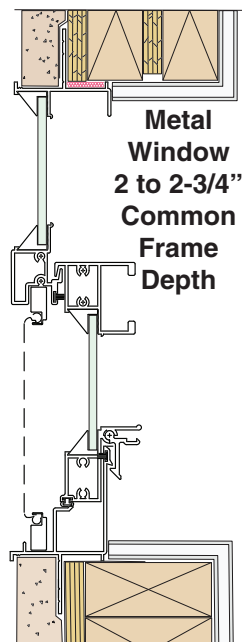
Experienced installers may be able to "eyeball" the real dimension, but the safest way is to get the real dimensions and supply them to the factory with the order.

The drawings show the actual relationship between

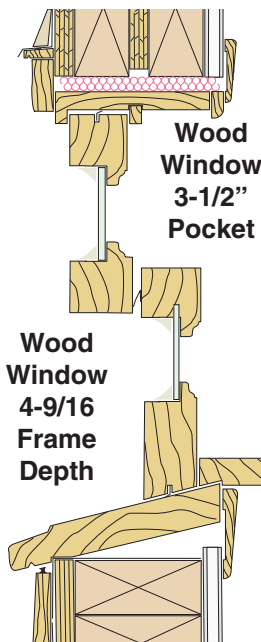
the rough opening and the interior surfaces of most windows. To accurately determine the rough opening would require removing interior wall board, exterior siding, trim and other parts which you can't do during a sales call.

There are tricks, tips and information that can be used to get the exact measurements needed to do the right job. Too much information back at the factory is better than too little. Use your best judgement.

AWDI recommends three circumstances to determine the appropriate cutback, because as a window becomes taller (and wider), the out-of-square condition of the opening becomes a more progressive problem. For example, a 1/16" deviance over 2 feet tall will become 1/8" out at 4 feet tall. An un-level sill (more common) might require shimming the new window off the old sill, and that distance will lessen the room at the top of the new window.

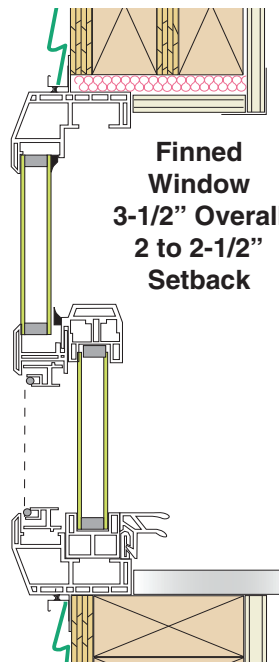


**Metal Window**  
2 to 2-3/4"  
Common  
Frame  
Depth

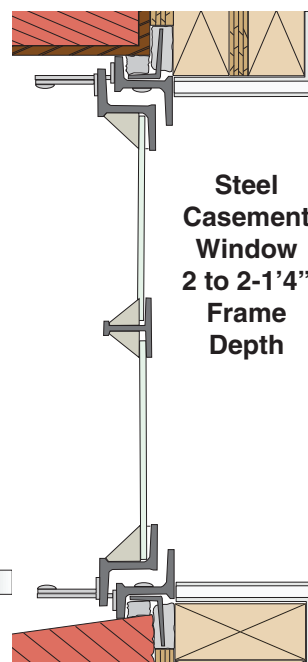


**Wood Window**  
3-1/2"  
Pocket

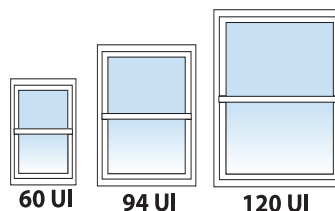
**Wood Window**  
4-9/16"  
Frame  
Depth



**Finned Window**  
3-1/2" Overall  
2 to 2-1/2"  
Setback



**Steel Casement Window**  
2 to 2-1/4"  
Frame  
Depth



1. Windows under 60 U.I. should be cut back 1/4". Windows between 61 and 94 U.I. should be cutback 1/4" to 3/8". Windows above 95 U.I. should be cut back 1/2".

2. If the cutback is 1/2", then backer rod is mandatory and probably exterior capping when outside in. Additionally new interior stops will be needed to create proper seal if it is installed inside out.

3. Windows cutback 1/4 to 3/8, require no backer rod and can be conventionally installed using existing blindstop or interior stop. Capping would be optional.

**For More:** <http://www.awdi.com/Books.html>