

## The Basic Measuring <br> nam information

## HOW TO MEASURE YOUR CUSTOM WINDOW SCREENS

Determining the actual size and hardware needs for your windows are the most important aspects of ordering your screens. Window screens come in a variety of styles, colors, and sizes. They also can use a number of different hardware options, and come in several different types of screen "mesh". Most people just want a "standard" window screen. But you need to think of a window screen like you would an ink cartridge for your printer, or a spark plug for your car...every manufacturer will make parts for their products, and even models within their product line, slightly different. However, you can buy the "knock-off" item, and have it work just as well as the manufacturer's brand, if you have certain information. That is what we can do for you.

Providing us the correct combination of the above can be the most challenging part of the process. But we need it to ensure that you will get what you want. Please find listed below some guidelines that will help you.


## Key Terms

## 1. ACTUAL SIZE OF SCREEN NEEDED

This will be the actual size of the screen needed for your window. It is not your window size. Your screen size will always be smaller than your window. When measuring a screen, always measure it from its "tip-to-tip" of both its WIDTH andyour height then HEIGHT. The tip-to-tip measurement of a finished window screen is from the outside corner of one side to the outside corner of the other side (width), and then the outside corner of the top to the outside corner of the bottom (height).


For informational purposes, we produce within the industry standard of $+/-1 / 16$ ".

## 2. TYPE OFWINDOW SCREEN NEEDED

There are basically 2 types of window screens.
SINGLE HUNG ("half screen"): Only the one portion of the window opens (bottom or side). This type of window will create a few "opportunities" for you, as it tends to have more hardware options and sizing variations. When ordering this type of screen, please take note of the "Single Hung" section of the ordering page whichdouble hung windows will provide several drawings of hardware options that tend to be the most common.

DOUBLE HUNG ("full screen"): Both portions of the window can be opened (top and bottom, or both sides). These types of windows have very few hardware options, and sizes tend to be more standard. These type screens always come with a "Cross Bar" or "Stabilizing Bar" which is positioned around the middle of the window, hidden by the dividing portion of the window. This adds stability to your window screen. When ordering this type of screen, please take note of the "Double Hung" section of the ordering page for ease of ordering.

## 3. FRAME CHOICES

Please refer to "Frame Choices" tab. We provide 1/4"; 5/16" and 7/16" Frame Choices. You will see below how to select proper frame, but as a preview, your window comes with a "U-channeled" area where your screen will sit. This "U-channel" is a certain width. Having the proper width frame ensures the screen will fit into the "U-channel" and not rattle.

We do not carry $3 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ frame width, as it is not an item that allows good inventory management/cost control for us. If your needs are for $3 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ frame, you can substitute our $5 / 16$ " frame with no problem. If you experience a "rattle" due to not having a snug frame fit in the U-channel, you can place parts of a flat toothpick between the frame and the Uchannel in a few places around the frame.

As further info, $7 / 16$ " is highly recommended for Double Hung Window Screens, as it is a heavier gauge metal and will handle the larger size better. While the $1 / 4$ " and $5 / 16$ " are almost always for Single Hung Screens.


## 4. HARDWARE CHOICES

Hardware are what "holds" your screen in place in your window seal. This is where the manufacturers of the windows like to come out with their own versions of hardware to make their windows are different. We do not offer all of the choices available. However when you look at what hardware really does, there are only a few options. Please refer to our "Hardware Choices" tab for more details. We do not offer all hardware on the market. However, we do offer hardware that will provide the same functionality as any original hardware.


## 5. SCREEN MESH

Is the material used to keep the bugs out. Please refer to "Screen Mesh" tab.
Please take note that Screen Mesh is secured in the Screen Frame by inserting a rubber material (spline) into a "spline groove". It is not designed to withstand the force of children, or pets pushing against the "Screen Mesh". With enough force, the Screen Mesh will tear, or the spline will be pushed out of the spine groove. In either case, the child, or pet, could fall through, or escape though the screen.


## HOW TO MEASURE FOR YOUR SCREEN

## LET'S START WITH THE MOST BASIC METHODS/INFORMATION FIRST

Please refer to "Frame Choices" tab. We provide $1 / 4$ "; $5 / 16$ " and $7 / 16$ " Frame Choices. You will see below how to select proper frame, but as a preview, your window comes with a "U-channeled" area where your screen will sit. This "U-channel" is a certain width. Having the proper width frame ensures the screen will fit into the "U-channel" and not rattle.


## KEYNOTE

Most houses are built using only 3 to 5 different size windows, of the same make and model of window and window screen. Usually the kitchen, laundry room and bathrooms make up 1 or 2 different sizes. The final 2 to 3 sizes are made up of the bedrooms, living rooms, dens, and dining room.

This is important because by knowing this, you will not need to measure for every window screen in your house. If you know which windows are the same sizes, you can measure one of each different size, instead of measuring every window. Or if you do not have the current window screen of the window you need, but have the same size window screen on another window in your house, you can remove that screen, and follow instructions above to ensure proper fit, frame size, hardware choices, etc.


## Measuring Instructions



From inside your home, open your window and find an area on the outer most portion of your window frame that has what appears to be "U-channels" that run along either the top and bottom, or along both sides of your window frame. There will be a L-channel on the other 2 portions of your window. This area is where your screen frame will go. The Uchannel is designed to ensure that the screen frame will not fall forward/outside, or backwards/inside. It is also the portion where your hardware will be placed. The Lchannel is to ensure your screen does not fall forward/outside.1-channel


Measure the width of the U-channel to determine the "frame choice" needed. For a single hung window the U-channel width will be $5 / 16$ " about $90 \%$ of the time. The other $10 \%$ would be either $1 / 4$ ", sometimes $7 / 16^{\prime \prime}$, and very rarely maybe $3 / 8$ " (if $3 / 8$ " you will need to substitute a $5 / 16$ " frame for your window screen. See "frame choices" for more detail).

Now you will need to determine your screen width and height. When taking these measurements keep a few things in mind: hardware choices, etc.

The U-channel can be on the widths (sides), or heights (sides) of your windowsill.
The purpose of the U-channel is to keep your screen from falling out, and hold your hardware. Knowing this, understand that all the screen needs to do is stay within the U-channel. The screen should not fill the entire U-channel on both sides.

This is important to understand during the measuring process, because you need to know that the screen width/height has to be less than the distance of the full depth of U-channel to the full depth of the U-channel on the opposite side in order for you to install the window screen later.

Actually during installation, you will need to push the screen all the way into the deepest U-channel so it can clear the top ridge of the opposite $U$-channel. Then you can release the screen, which will allow the screen to rest in both U-channels.

The L-channel portion is not nearly as difficult, as you can see that you will not need to "clear" a portion of the channel during installation.

## MEASURE U-CHANNEL DIMENSION FIRST:

Place your tape measure completely inside THE DEEPEST U-channel (getting full depth of channel), and measure across to the upper ridge of the U-channel on the opposite

side (do not go into this U-channel at all).
If you determine you will need any hardware added on the u-channel portion of your screen, deduct $1 / 4$ " from your measurement.

If you determine you will NOT need hardware on either u-channel portion of your screen, deduct only $1 / 8$ " from your measurement.

The additional deduction for hardware is to allow for the thickness of the hardware.
After making the appropriate deduction, you have your screen dimension for the uchannel portion of your screen.

## MEASURE L-CHANNELSECOND:

Your L-channel most of the time is just that....an obvious L-shaped part of your window frame that your screen will rest against. You will find it at the outer most portion of your window sill. However, on some model windows you will see what appears to be a wide U-channel where one portion of the " $U$ " is longer than the other. The inter most portion of the "U" is actually the back part of your window track. The longer portion of the "U" should be the outer most portion, and is the L-channel we want to focus on.

Measure from the inter-most portion of one L-channel to the outer-most ridge of the opposite L-channel. Measure in 2 different areas to ensure area is "in square".


Similar to the U-channel, it is important not to cover the entire span from inter-most to inter-most portion of L-channel. It is only important to ensure that your screen frame covers the distance beyond both portions of the L-channel. During installation, you will have to move your screen frame all the way to one side, and allow the other side of the screen frame "clearance" from the opposite L-channel ridge, then move screen frame back to ensure screen frame covers a portion of both L-channels.


Deduct $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ to $1 / 4$ " from smallest measurement.
Make sure to allow for additional deduction of another $1 / 8$ " if needing hardware on $L$-channel portion of your screen. (very rare)

## HOW TO USE YOUR MEASUREMENT TO ENTER YOUR ORDER:

It is critical that when ordering we know where to place your hardware. Some window screens will have hardware on the widths (top/bottom), some on the heights (top/bottom), and some on both.

When determining hardware needs and location, and based on what you noticed during the measurement process, please take care when placing order that your hardware needs
 are placed on the correct widths, or heights, or both.

## Measuring Double Hung Windows L-

## MEASURE FOR DOUBLE HUNG SCREENS

As a reminder, if you have the current screen used for your window, please use those "tip-to-tip" measurements as described earlier.

Double Hung Screens are much easier to order than Single Hung Screens. There are really only 2 different types, can be installed with 2-3 different hardware combinations, and tend to come in more "standard sizes".

Start from inside your house and lift the bottom portion of your window. Look at the bottom sill and along the sides to see if these areas are wood, or some other material (i.e. vinyl, aluminum, etc..).

Double Hung Window Screens should almost always use 7/16" screen frame, and use a "cross-bar" to stabilize its width.

## WOOD WINDOW SCREENS:

If the sill area is wood, you have wood windows. You should notice towards the outer most portion of the sill where at lease both sides, and sometimes the top, has an "inset", or "framed" looking area. These are called "stops". They are designed to "stop" your screen from falling forward into your house. Your screen will actually rest against the "outside" of the "stops", and it is here where you should take your measurements.

When measuring, keep in mind the purpose of the "stops". As long as the screen frame goes beyond the "stops" on all sides, your screen will stay in18 place. The wider the "stops", the more margin of error you can have with your measurement and still be ok.


Widths are listed first, and Heights are listed second.


Using this guide, measure from inter-most portion of one "stop", across to the inter-most portion of the opposite side "stop". Take this measurement at the middle and bottom to ensure window frame is still square. Use the "narrowest" measurement for your screen width and deduct $1 / 4$ ". left

Use the guide to measure the height as well. Again, take 3 measurements (right, middle, and left.) Use the "shortest" measurement for your screen height and deduct $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$.

You will notice that the bottom "stop" is more like a short "cut-out" in the frame.

## DETERMINE HARDWARE NEEDS FOR WOOD WINDOW SCREENS



[^0]come with "loop latches" mounted on the screen. These latches will "loop" over a "baldhead screw" (more like a big headed nail) that you will need to hammer into your sill at the meeting place of loop latches. Additionally, you will be provided "friction hangers" (aluminum channels) that you will need to mount to the upper side of each sill, against the inside of the "stops". The "friction hangers" actually form a "track" that your screen frame will slide into. The combination of the "bald-head screw" and "loop latches" will keep screen frame in place.Friction Latches


If you are replacing an existing screen, your "bald-head screws" are probably already mounted to your sill. If that is the case, it will be unlikely that the new "friction hangers" will match the exact location of your current "bald-head screws". If they do not, you will need to carefully remove the existing "bald-head screws" from your sill, and fill holes with a wood filler, and then mount the new "bald-head screws" in the correct spot. Widths are listed first, and Heights are listed second.


## DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW SCREENS (NON-WOOD)

When lifting bottom portion of the window, look beyond the tracks where the top portion of the window travels up and down... you should see a "U-channel" on the top and bottom of the sill, with "L-channels" that run along the left and right side.

This is the area where your screen will rest.
Measure your width by taking the distance from the inside of one L-channel to the inside of the opposite L-channel. Take this measurement from the bottom portion of the sill and again around the middle of the window sill to ensure the
sill is square. Use the "narrowest" measurement and deduct $1 / 8$ " to determine your width.

When measuring your width, keep in mind that a good screen fit keeps the outer portion of your screen frame beyond the L-channel on both sides.
Measure height by taking the distance from the inter most portion of the top U-channel to the top ridge of the opposite U-channel. Take this measurement along the right and left side to ensure the sill is square. Take the shortest measurement and deduct $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$.


Take an additional deduction of $1 / 8$ " (total of $1 / 4$ ") if hardware is to be installed on the height. We recommend using "slip-on
 springs" on the top of the screen frames for this type of windows.

When measuring the height, keep in mind that during installation, you will push the top portion of your screen into the upper U-channel, and then the bottom portion of the screen frame will need to pass over the top ridge of the bottom U-channel before resting in place.

Measure height by taking the distance from the inter most portion of the top $U$-channel to the top ridge of the opposite $U$-channel.

## DOUBLE HUNG WINDOW SCREENS (NON-wood) HARDWARE CHOICES

The easiest hardware method is to simply have "slip-on springs" added to the top of your screen frame, and "pull tabs" on the bottom. This will allow tension to be pushed downward from the top U-channel towards the bottom.

If you find a small groove that runs in the U-channel of the sides, or top of the sill, you can use "plungers" instead of"slip-on springs". If the grooves are there and you decide to use "plungers", you can only use plungers on sides, or top, where groove is located.

This "plunger" groove should be very narrow, and is not wide enough to accept your screen frame width. So, while measuring your U-channel, or L-channel, do not include your "plunger" groove, as it purpose is to accept the pin portion of the plunger, and has nothing to do with your screen frame measurement.

Remember to make additional deductions of $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ on any width/height that you use hardware with.


## WARNING

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[^0]:    If the inside portion of your sill is wood, you will need to order "Wood Window Screens". These screens will automatically

