

Ask Jon Eakes

Rotting Wood on a Window

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Wooden window sashes tend to rot. There are special hardening and filler materials that can do a good job of restoring this wood without having to replace it.

A wood hardener is the starting point, to solidify existing soft wood and prepare the area for a filler. Minwax makes a one part wood hardener. BCS makes a two part epoxy wood hardener. Both are very liquid, not putties. The BCS product is the only one I know that will penetrate moist wood. Rather than being repelled by the water, it mixes with it and penetrates completely.

Once the mould is killed and the soft wood is solidified, any missing wood can be replaced with epoxy fillers. Minwax makes an epoxy filler called Wood Filler (not to be confused with a true pore filler) which is very similar to an autobody filler but a pine colour. BCS makes an epoxy filler specifically designed to adhere to their epoxy penetrating sealer. Neither are inexpensive. Follow this link for more details on the BCS product.

Minwax products are available in most renovation centres -- although you may have to special order the hardener. BCS Wood Restoration is located in Cavan, Ontario. Smith & Co. make and distribute the BCS product in the US.

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