

How to Fix a Broken Window Glass Checklist

Follow this checklist to safely stabilize, clean, and repair broken windows while avoiding further damage.



Safety & Preparation

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Wear gloves, goggles, and protective clothing				
Clear the area and keep people away				
Lay down drop cloth to catch glass				
Gather required tools and materials (knife, putty knife, tape, silicone, replacement glass)				

Temporary Fix (Stabilize Cracks)

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Clean surface of broken glass carefully				
Dry the cracked area thoroughly				
Degrease the surface with acetone				
Apply quick fix (glass adhesive, nail polish, or glue)				
Tape plastic brace or cover crack with strong tape				

DIY Glass Replacement (Aluminum Frame)

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Remove sash/frame and pry off vinyl strips				
Cut away silicone and remove old glass				
Clean frame of residue				
Measure opening and test fit new glass				
Apply silicone, press glass, seal edges				
Replace vinyl strips securely				

DIY Glass Replacement (Vinyl Frame)

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Remove sash and glazing strips				
Cut away tape/sealer and lift old glass				
Clean frame, apply new mounting tape				
Insert setting blocks in corners				
Install new insulated glass unit (IGU)				
Reassemble sash and test window function				

When to Call Professionals

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Damage involves shattered pane				
Frame is warped or cracked				
DIY attempt not successful				
Need to restore insulation or soundproofing				