

REPLACE A BROKEN WINDOW

Become a DIY expert at replacing broken windowpanes with Cashbuild's easy-to-follow tips

HAS your kid put a cricket or soccer ball through a window as he practises to become the next AB de Villiers or Thomas Müller? There's no need to go to the expense of getting someone in to replace the glass if you're handy around the house. Simply visit the nearest store of your consumer champion Cashbuild for everything you need to get the job done. Your friendly Cashbuild consultant will help you get the material you need, then simply follow these step-by-step instructions.

YOU'LL NEED

Replacement pane cut to the right size (see note), masking tape, long-nosed pliers, work gloves and safety glasses, old towel, putty knife, chisel, hammer, putty (or glazing compound), glazier's points (little metal triangles), screwdriver, paintbrush, quick-drying primer and paint (for painted window frames) or varnish (for wooden frames), tape measure, fine sandpaper, newspaper and paper bag or box to dispose of broken glass, heat gun (optional), linseed oil

NOTE: Measure the inside of the window frame and have the replacement pane cut to about 2 mm smaller than the frame. Match the thickness of the original glass.

STEP 1 Remove the broken pane. Wear safety glasses and work gloves to prevent injury. Break the pane if it's cracked but not broken: stick masking tape in a crisscross pattern on the cracked pane, hold an old towel over it and hit it with a hammer. Manoeuvre the broken glass out of the window frame, taking care not to cut yourself.

STEP 2 Prepare the window frame. Remove any stubborn bits of glass with long-nosed pliers. Lightly sand the frame to remove all traces of putty and wipe the area with a damp



PICTURE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES: GALLO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

cloth to ensure the surface is clean and smooth.

■ **Steel frame:** If there are spring clips remove them with pliers. Remove rough spots on the frame with fine sandpaper. Apply quick-drying primer.

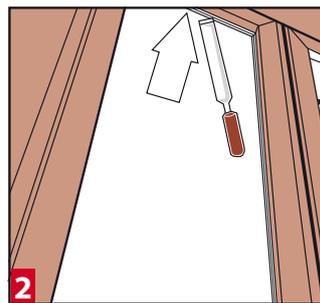
■ **Wooden frame:** Remove old putty or glazing compound with a putty knife or chisel. A heat gun will help soften the putty, making it easier to remove. Heat a small area just before scraping. Apply 2-3 coats of varnish or a universal undercoat to prevent the wood absorbing oil from the putty.



1 Tape the glass and break it.

STEP 3 Install the replacement glass. Doublecheck that the new pane is the right size. Knead the putty until it is pliable and free of lumps. It should be the consistency of fairly dry, thick dough. If it's too stiff, thin it with linseed oil.

■ **Steel frame:** Roll a piece of putty between your hands into a long, thin worm. Press it firmly against the inside edge of the frame with a putty knife to create a thin layer between the new pane and the steel frame. Put the replacement pane into the frame, pressing it into the



2 Scrape away old putty.

putty. **NB:** don't press in the middle of the pane; apply pressure at the edges to avoid the glass cracking. Scrape away excess putty with the putty knife.

■ **Wooden frame:** Put the replacement pane in the frame. Hold it in position with one hand and insert a glazier's point on each side of your hand to secure the pane firmly in place. You need only a little pressure to insert the glazier's points – use a putty knife or screwdriver to push or tap it into the wood. Insert extra glazier's points about 100 mm apart all around the new pane, making sure they're firmly against the glass.

STEP 4 Seal the window. Roll kneaded putty into pencil-size strips. Starting in one corner lay the strips in the frame all the way around the new glass, pressing the putty down firmly with your fingers. Then smooth it with a putty knife using long, even strokes. Make sure the glazier's points are covered.

TIP: Dip the putty knife in linseed oil just before using it to make spreading the putty easier. Run a dry paintbrush over the fresh putty for a smooth effect.

STEP 5 Clean the glass with turpentine or methylated spirits. Allow a week for the putty to dry, then paint or varnish. Don't leave glazed putty unpainted for more than 25 days.

■ **Steel frame:** Apply a universal undercoat to the putty. Apply a top coat (or two) of paint suited to metal to the frame and putty.

■ **Wooden frame:** Apply 2-3 coats of varnish to the putty. Allow to dry between coats. Or apply a universal undercoat as above, followed by a top coat or two of suitable paint.

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