

# How To Replace Window Screens

Now may be a good time to repair or replace window and door screens. Peter Miranda, executive director of the Insect Screening Weavers Association, points out that screens not only are a home's first line of defense against flying insects, they also are important in natural ventilation—helping keep down air conditioning bills—and with proper upkeep, can make a home more attractive.

Here are some tips from the Association to help keep your repair or replacement of window screens simple.

## Replacing Screens Inexpensive, Easy

"There are two popular types of screening, aluminum and fiber glass," Mr. Miranda says. "Both are corrosion resistant—unlike old galvanized steel screens—and inexpensive.

"And, even if you are all thumbs around the house, it is easy to replace old, worn-out screens, or make new ones, using common household tools and some inexpensive materials."

All you need to put new aluminum or fiber glass screens on existing frames is a new piece of screening, a screwdriver, utility knife or tin snips, concave hand roller tool and vinyl-coated replacement spline. Spline is the rubbery strip that anchors screening to the frame: the hand roller is a special tool used to install spline.

## Easy Installation

After gathering the materials, your first step in replacing screening in an aluminum frame for a single or double-hung window is removal of the old screening. Lay the screen on a flat surface, with the spline channel up, and use a

screwdriver to start pulling out the spline.

Next, place the new screening on the frame, with a 1-in. overlap around the sides. Then, starting at any corner of the frame, use the concave hand roller to secure the screening and spline in the channel, making sure the screening is taut completely around the frame. To finish, just trim off the excess screening and the repaired screen is ready to install.

If you are working with wood frames, you will need a workbench, wood blocks and two C-clamps to make sure the screening is taut.

Start by removing the molding over the spline channel, if one is present. This should be done carefully, with a wide chisel or putty knife. Next, detach the old screening as you would with an aluminum frame and cut a new piece slightly larger than the area to be covered. Staple or tack the new screening to one end of the frame and place the frame on the workbench with 2 X 4 in. wood blocks under each end. Fasten the C-clamp along each side of the screen to bow the frame, then pull the screening taut and tack down the second end.

After the ends are secured, remove the clamps and blocks and use new spline and the concave roller to fasten the screen. If the screen has a center rail, put it back on, then just trim off the excess screening and replace the decorative molding.

If you find that the wooden frames are weakening with age, a little preventive repair can help stretch their life. To straighten and stiffen weakened corners, try

screwing L-shaped metal braces on each side of the frame. If either wood or metal screens are bent out of shape, though, the best bet is to buy or build new frames.

## Screen Doors For Full Benefit

When checking window screens, be sure not to overlook front and back door screens. And, of course, homeowners with sliding screen doors should pay extra attention to the door tracks. Any kinks in the bottom track should be straightened to help the doors roll smoothly.

"Ventilating your home naturally by making full use of window and door screens improves air circulation, making the home more comfortable and reducing electric bills for homeowners with air conditioning," Mr. Miranda says.

"Home handymen can buy standard-mesh aluminum or fiber glass screening at hardware stores and home supply centers, along with replacement spline and hand-rollers," he continues. "Rolls of screening are generally available in widths up to 84 in. and often can be cut to order, so be sure to have the measurements of the screens you need to replace."

Mr. Miranda also notes that many rescreening packages are offered with easy do-it-yourself instructions.

"If you are still not convinced it's easy to replace old screens," he says, "you can call a local screening dealer for installation service. They are usually listed in the Yellow Pages under 'Screens—Door and Window' and can meet all your home screening needs."



# HAPPENINGS

## Gum Tree 4-H Gymkhana Results

The Gum Tree 4-H Annual Gymkhana was held recently at DerbyDown Farm in Kennett Square, courtesy of Mary Warner Brown and Louise Serio and their families.

Cochampions in Division A for younger and/or newer 4-H members were Jesse Vanderhoff of Cochranville and Andy Triboletti of Kemblesville.

The reserve champion was Wesley Promnitz of R.D., West Grove.

Division B champion (older and/or more experienced riders) was Jimmy Healy of New London. The reserve champion was Jennifer Knox of West Chester.

There was a large turnout and many classes were split. Winners of individual classes were:

Barrel Race - Open: 1. T.R. Serio; 2. Jimmy Healy; 3. Jennifer Knox.

Barrel Race - Adults and Older 4-Hers - 1. Rod Vanderhoff; 2. Bill Wunsch; 3. Lisa Freeman.

Pole Bending - Trotting: 1. Ashley Singleton; 2. Lauren Daggett; 3. Andy Triboletti.

Pole Bending - Open: 1. T.R. Serio; 2. Jimmy Healy; 3. Michelle Stanton.

Pole Bending - Adult and older 4-Hers: 1. Rod Vanderhoff; 2. Bill Wunsch; 3. Laura Orpneck.

Father's Shoes - Division A: 1.

Jimmy Healy; 2. Alan McCabe; 3. Chrissy Serio.

Musical Bags - Division A: 1. Jesse Vanderhoff; 2. Lauren Daggett; 3. Johnathan Posey.

Musical Bags - Division B: 1. Adrian Farrar; 2. Zubair Hamir; 3. Jennifer Knox.

Egg on a Spoon - Division A: 1. Chastity Moran; 2. Jennifer Earll; 3. Tammy Riveria.

Egg on a Spoon - Division B: 1. Stephanie McAvaney; 2. Sarah Wilison; 3. Beatrix Kirwin.

Egg on a Spoon - Division C: 1. Andy Triboletti; 2. Jimmy Healy; 3. Chrystal Coffelt.

Egg on a Spoon - Division D: 1. Michelle Cusick; 2. Brooke Coldiron; 3. Michelle Stanton.

Keyhole Race - Trot: 1. Beatrix Kirwin; 2. Andy Triboletti; 3. Jessica Posey.

Keyhole Race - Open: 1. Jimmy Healy; 2. Jennifer Knox; 3. Michelle Stanton.

Keyhole Race - Adult and Older 4-Hers: 1. Rod Vanderhoff; 2. Martin Georgeson; 3. Bill Wunsch.

Apple Race - Division A: 1. Jessica Farrell; 2. Wes Promnitz; 3. Chastity Moran.

Apple Race - Division B: 1. Jimmy Healy; 2. Jennifer Knox; 3. Michelle Stanton.

Dollar Bareback: 1. Jimmy Healy; 2. Lauren Daggett; 3. Zubair Hamir.



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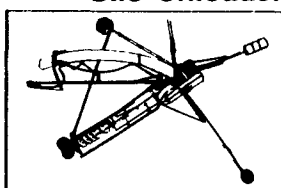
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#### LOW RATE FINANCING

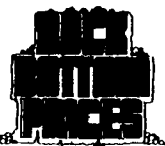
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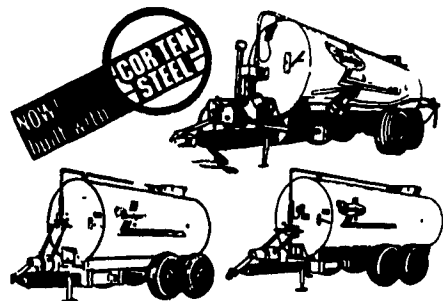
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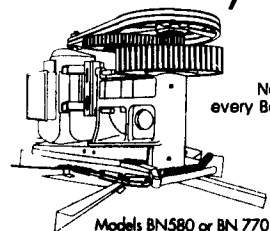
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