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VINYL INSULATED WINDOW CARE AND STORAGE

As summer temperatures increase, everyone needs to be aware of proper handling and storage of vinyl products. Customers must be reminded and made aware of proper handling and storage as well.

Vinyl is an excellent building material. It is durable and strong. However, proper storage and handling is critical.

1. **Store windows upright with the head slightly back and with exterior surface of unit facing out.** If the unit is stored with the outside face leaning forward, pressure can be applied that could damage the return fin and glazing tape.
2. **Insure that the frame sill is on a flat surface.** Narrow runners placed on a rack under the frame sill can cause bowing in the frame sill.
3. **Do not store windows on their side or laid flat.** This position, combined with outside temperatures that can soften vinyl members, could allow the force of the balances to distort the sash members.
4. **Do not store or transport inside dark colored storage buildings or dark colored trucks.** *White* is the required color for all transportation trailers. If vinyl windows are placed in storage building, these buildings should be white, as well.

Aluminum will not distort until it reaches temperatures close to 950 degrees Fahrenheit. Vinyl reaches its Heat Deflection Temperature at only 150-160 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature vinyl extrusions can begin to distort. Vinyl will not reach 150-160 degrees temperature by simply being placed in the summer sun. However, a vinyl product could have portions of it reach that temperature under certain conditions. Some of these conditions have been identified. We must educate ourselves and the end user on how to avoid these conditions.

Vinyl windows should **never be stored in the open facing east to west**. East or west facing windows receive the direct rays of the sun for the entire day. Heat build up between windows (even when properly spaced) in such locations can be high enough to cause distortion in parts of the window.

Palletized or racked windows that are shrink-wrapped and placed in the direct path of the sun could reach the Heat Deflection Temperature and result in distortion.

Windows should be:

1. **Stored in shaded areas** (under protective roofs or inside well ventilated buildings).
2. **Stacked and stored loosely** so that air can flow equally around them.
3. **Do not face stacks into the sun.** Position them so that the face of the glass is not directly into the path (east to west) of the sun. **Place racks to face north and south.**
4. **Have openings cut into the shrink-wrap** to allow heat to escape.
5. **Never place extra windows on top** of stacked windows on a rack.