

WHITE PAPER

How to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement



RITESCREEN

This seemingly daunting task is surprisingly easy to DIY—as long as you know how to properly read a tape measure. Learn the signs it's time to replace your window screen instead of patching your current one, the ins and outs of using a tape measure, and how you can measure windows for screen replacement.

Is It Time to Replace Your Window Screen?

Before you can measure for a window screen replacement, you have to decide that it's time to pursue this project. How do you know if your window screen has reached its end of life?

Check for these signs:

- Generally speaking, window screens average a 15-year lifespan. This is dependent on a number of factors including, but not limited to: weather, winter protection (i.e. window screens are removed in winter months), damage, cleaning, and whether the screens came with the original windows or were replacements
- It has punctures or tears that can't be patched. Many people have luck patching minor tears on window screens. If yours is larger than a patch can efficiently cover, it's time to replace your window screen
- It is impacting your desired lifestyle. A standard mesh screen may have worked for a while, but if it's no longer meeting your needs, it's time for a change. This often happens when someone gets a new pet and they need a more durable screen, or they want more protection against the elements
- Corners are faded or broken. Corners are tough to patch, so you'll likely need to start over with an entirely new screen
- There is corrosion on the frame. In this case, you'll need to replace your frame, so it's also time to change your window screen
- The mesh is loose or shiny. These are signs that your window screen has reached its end of life. A shiny screen is indicative of weather damage, while the loose mesh shows the screen no longer has the required durability

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How to Read a Tape Measure

You've heard the advice: measure twice, cut once. When it comes to measuring for your window screen replacement, your mantra should be measure twice, order once to ensure you receive the appropriate product size for your window and patio door screen needs. Before you even get started measuring, it's important to know how to properly read a tape measure.

Tips for Accurately Reading a Metal Tape Measure

There are markers on your tape measure that provide measurement down to 1/16". In order of biggest to smallest increments, your tape measure will provide the following measurements:

- Inch
- 1/2-inch
- 1/4-inch
- 1/8-inch
- 1/16-inch

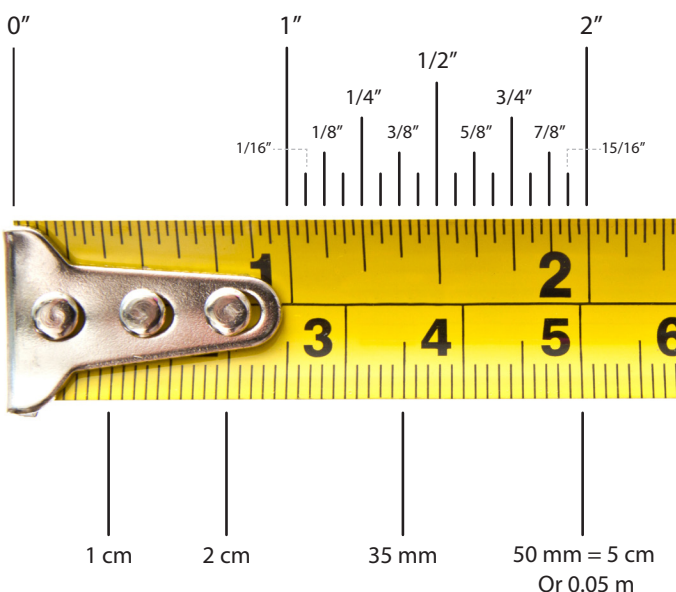
Between each inch marker, there are 15 lines that vary in size depending on what fraction of an inch is the right measurement. The largest marks on the tape are the inch markers, and the number to the left is the inch measurement. The lines decrease in length as the measurement gets smaller, with the smallest line indicating a measurement down to 1/16-inch.

Note: Some tape measures also include metric measurements (centimeters and millimeters). Be sure you are reading the correct side!

Causes of Inaccuracies When Measuring for a Window Screen Replacement

Even if you know how to properly read a tape measure, there are still some issues that may impact the accuracy of your measurement.

- Using an uncalibrated tape measure or one that is old and bent. A properly calibrated tape measure is accurate within 1/64". This small difference in measurement won't cause inaccuracies when ordering your window screen replacement. A tape measure that isn't calibrated or features kinks can cause a greater difference in measurement that might impact the success of your replacement
- Using a low-quality tape measure or cloth tape measure. Unfortunately, you can't assume your new tape measure is accurate. While each manufacturer has its own guidelines for quality control, there is a chance you can purchase one from a bad batch or the producer doesn't have the right processes for inspection in place. This most frequently happens with budget tape measures. We do not recommend the use of a cloth tape measure



How to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement

Now that you have determined your window screen needs to be replaced and you know how to read a tape measure properly, it's time to measure your window for your screen replacement.

Supply List:

- High quality metal tape measure
- Ladder or step stool (if necessary)
- Putty knife or screwdriver if you need to remove the screen from the outside
- Notepad and pen (for recording measurements)

The Steps below Outline the Process for Measurement of a Window Without an Existing Screen.

Determine whether your window features channels or a track.

1. Locate the channels on the sides of the window frame where the screen will be installed.
2. Measure Width:
 - Place end of your measuring tape inside the channel on one side.
 - Extend the tape to the OUTSIDE (or opposing edge) of the channel on the other side.
 - Record this measurement.
 - Subtract 1/8 inch from this measurement to ensure a proper fit.

3. Measure Height:

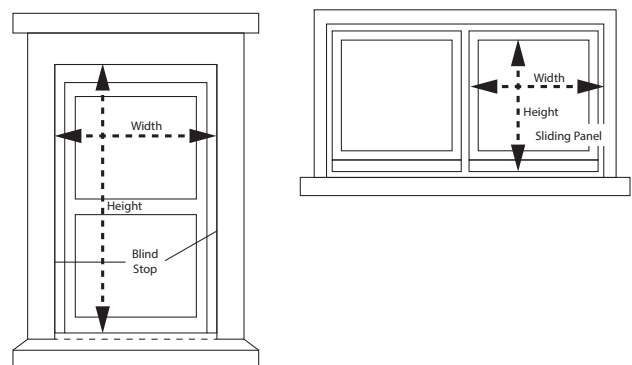
- Repeat the same process from the top inside channel to the bottom outside edge.
- Record and subtract 1/8 inch as you did with the width.
- Channel to the bottom outside edge.
- Record and subtract 1/8 inch as you did with the width.

4. Measure Depth:

- Measure from the front inner edge of the channel wall to the inner edge of the opposing channel wall.
- Record this measurement to ensure the screen fits into the channel depth.

For Windows without Channels:

1. Determine the Screen position: identify where the edges of the screen will sit on the window frame.
2. Measure width and height
3. Measure from the inside edge of one side to the inside edge of the opposite side, keeping the measuring tape parallel to the window sill.
4. Record both width and height measurements.

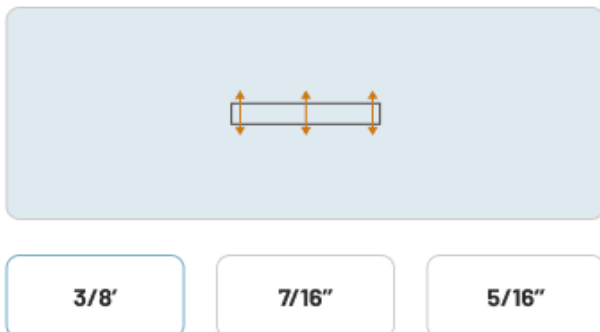


The Steps below Outline the Process for Measuring an Existing Screen

Now that you have determined your window screen needs to be replaced and you know how to read a tape measure properly, it's time to measure your window for your screen replacement.

Supply List:

- High quality metal tape measure
 - Ladder or step stool (if necessary)
 - Putty knife or screwdriver if you need to remove the screen from the outside
 - Notepad and pen (for recording measurements)
1. Remove existing screen (see removal guide to the right)
 - If the screen is designed to be remove, carefully unlatch or unscrew it from the window frame (see detailed instructions to the right).
 2. Measure the screen frame (height and width):
 - Place the measuring tape on the outside edge of the screen frame on one side.
 - Extend the tape measure to the outside edge of the opposite side of the frame.
 - Measure both the width and height using this method.
 - Record these measurements as they are critical for ordering a replacement screen that fits correctly.
 3. Measure the thickness of the frame:
 - Measure the thickness of the frame by placing your measuring tape across the depth of the frame's edge.
 - Record this measurement to ensure the frame's thickness matches any installation requirements or constraints.



The Steps below Outline the Process for Measuring an Existing Screen

To accurately measure for a new window screen, you will need to remove the existing screen from your window. Most screens are designed to be flexible, so it's easier than it might sound at first.

To remove the window screen from the inside:

4. Open the window fully.
5. Pull the tabs on the screen toward you. If your screen doesn't have tabs, it may have a pin or a latch that helps it disengage from the window.
6. Tilt the screen so it is easier to remove. Remember that it is pretty flexible, and you should be able to maneuver it easily. If it seems stuck, check to make sure you didn't miss any pins.
7. Put the screen in a safe spot, especially if you are planning on reinstalling it when you are done.

Removing it from the outside of your home takes a few more steps, but it might be necessary depending on where your window is located. You should use a putty knife or screwdriver to help make the process easier.

1. Remove the frame starting at the lower left corner.
2. Gently push the window screen frame away from the corner, which will expose more of the sides.
3. Slide a putty knife or screwdriver into the gap you have created to help create more space between the screen and the frame.
4. Gently tilt the screen up while pulling the rest of the screen out toward the bottom of the window.
5. Use the screwdriver or putty knife to pull the right frame corner from the pocket.
6. Pull the rest of the frame down and away from the window.
7. Put the screen in a safe spot.

Tips to Measure Windows for Screen Replacement

- You should measure your screen down to 1/16". This will help you determine the most accurate window screen replacement rather than having to round up or down significantly
- Measure twice, order once. You can double-check your measurements by measuring at different parts of the frame. If you have a standard window with parallel sides, the length measurement should be the same no matter where you measure, as should the width measurement
- When writing down your measurements, be sure to indicate which number is the length and which is the width. The depth will be the smallest measurement by far

Choose RiteScreen for Your Window Screen Replacement

RiteScreen is the largest independent manufacturer of window and door screens in North America. The Company provides a wide range of mission-critical product and service solutions to OEM customers and now sells replacement screens through digital/eCommerce channels directly to aftermarket customers. In business for more than 75 years, RiteScreen serves the window and door markets, along with other businesses and consumers who require custom, aftermarket screen solutions. RiteScreen deploys its manufacturing, sourcing, packaging, engineering, and logistics resources through seven facilities across the United States to support customers nationally.

RiteScreen's core values are at the heart of our identity, mission, and vision. We proudly share them with you to foster a sense of connection and community.



Quality - Safety is the priority for everyone, every day. It is our responsibility to be proactive and keep each other safe.



Customer Focus - Our customers trust us to provide exactly what they want, when they need it. We are excited to create new solutions & break into new markets.



Solutions-oriented - We do the right thing, even when no one is looking. We say what we mean and mean what we say.



Accountability - We are empowered and responsible to drive results at all levels. We take ownership of our actions and outcomes.



Continuous Improvement - We accelerate high performance by streamlining our processes. We drive engagement & sustain change to transform our business and culture.



Collaborative - We believe in the power of team to achieve results. We cultivate external partnerships with customers, vendors and in communities.

Need Help Getting Started?

Our dedicated team is here to help with your orders and answer any questions. Contact us by phone or live chat from **6am to 6pm EST**, or email us anytime.



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