

# How can you tell if your stained glass windows need restoration?

If you're not sure, you can learn by making these five easy visual inspection steps and save money by taking care of minor repairs yourself.

Does the window push outward when pressed? If a window is not set firmly in its frame and sash, major repair is called for.

Are the thick reinforcing bars still securely attached to the window? If they have broken away in places, major repair is needed.

Do the glass panes rattle within their lead frameworks? Loose glass may only need a fresh supply of putty (regular glazing compound) pushed up by hand under the leads, around the pieces of glass, and into any gaps between lead and glass. If the problem is cracked solder joints or broken leads, major repair is required.

Are the panels bulging? If the bulging area is still firmly set in sound leads, there is no immediate danger. You might be wiser spending money for protective glass to diminish weather effects than for flattening the bulges. If the bulging occurs around the reinforcing bars, a structural weakness is indicated requiring major repair.

Is glass cracked, broken, or shattered? Cracked pieces still secure in their lead frame can be left alone. Loose pieces can be carefully glued together with a clear epoxy or silicone cement. It is better to save an original, rare glass if possible than to attempt a difficult match. Missing, mismatched, or leaking glass should be replaced.

For further information and brochure, contact: The J. and R. Lamb Studios, Permission for reprint of this article given by Your Church magazine. Phyllis Mather Rice, Editor.