

Stained Glass Cleaning and Maintenance

Stained glass windows will vary in the need for cleaning and maintenance. Stained glass does not show dirt and grim build-up like clear glass. The basic cleaning method is to dust with a soft cloth or soft fox tail brush. If your window is exposed to outside elements, a more meticulous cleaning may be required over time. It is advised to use a pH neutral cleaning solution mixed with distilled water. Painted stained glass can be sensitive to acids. Avoid using acid bases such as vinegar and ammonia. Never use abrasives, scouring pads or steel wool on painted stained glass.

Each window on an individual basis with size, design and environmental factors, will have a different life span before a restoration is needed. The steel reinforcing bars should be checked periodically to ensure it remains attached to the window's lead caming. The re-glazing of a panel (the putty underneath the lead which keeps it waterproof and rigid) should take place when you see the putty cracking and falling out. In the majority of cases, a typical leaded glass window will outlive us, barring acts of God and human intervention.