

# Total Window Makeover 2026

An Introduction to the Complete System of Historic Window Restoration

## Course Objective

The **Total Window Makeover** is a five-day, hands-on introduction to the complete system required to restore historic wood windows properly.

Rather than treating windows as isolated parts, this course teaches participants how to think in terms of **three essential makeovers**:

- The **Mechanical Makeover**
- The **Sash Makeover**
- The **Frame Makeover**

These three makeovers represent the minimum set of responsibilities required to bring a historic window back into service.

Underlying them — and holding them together — is the deeper structure of the **Five Pillars of Window Craft**, which governs how the work is ultimately sequenced, scaled, and repeated in the field.



# The Three Makeovers (Primary Understanding)

For someone new to Window Craft, every historic window can be understood through three lenses:

## 1. Mechanical Makeover

Restoring function. This includes:

- Understanding how the window operates
- Replacing or repairing ropes, weights, and hardware
- Removing and reinstalling sash
- Returning the window to basic working order

Without the mechanical makeover, no other work is possible.



## 2. Sash Makeover

Restoring the working components that hold the glass.

This includes:

- Paint removal
- Wood repair
- Glass removal and reinstallation
- Glazing and finishing

The sash is the heart of the window.

Most historic windows fail here first.



## 3. Frame Makeover

Restoring the structure that holds everything together.

This includes:

- Basic frame repair
- Surface preparation
- Priming and finishing
- Managing wear, water, and exposure

A sash cannot perform well inside a failing frame.



# The Five Pillars (Underlying Structure)

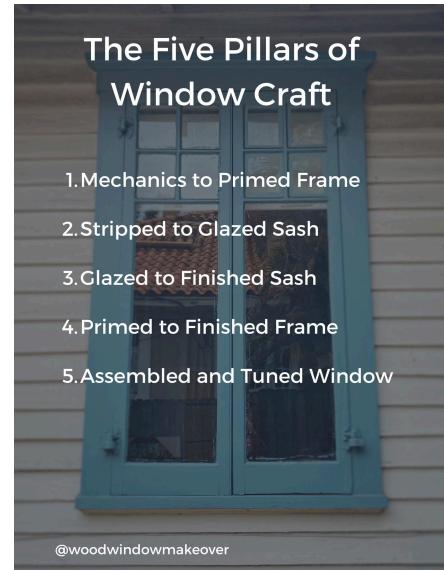
Beneath the three makeovers lies the deeper logic of the **Five Pillars of Window Craft**:

1. Mechanics to Primed Frame (M2P)
2. Stripped to Glazed Sash (S2G)
3. Glazed to Finished Sash (G2F)
4. Primed to Finished Frame (P2F)
5. Assembled and Tuned Frame (A&T)

These pillars describe the **ideal order of operations** in full production work.

However, in a five-day introductory course, the pillars are **introduced, split, and revisited** — not completed in a perfectly linear fashion.

Understanding *why* this happens is part of the education.



## Why the Week Is Sequenced the Way It Is

Historic window restoration is governed by **material realities**, not classroom preferences.

One of the most significant constraints is **glazing putty cure time**.

- Glazing must be completed early in the week
- Putty requires multiple days to set before painting
- If glazing is delayed, the course cannot be completed properly

Because of this, the week is intentionally sequenced to balance **mechanics, sash work, and frame work** in a way that allows participants to experience *every critical operation* within five days.

# Five-Day Course Flow (Teaching Sequence)

## Day 1 — Mechanical Makeover (Part 1)

- Understanding window function
- Removing sash from the opening
- Replacing ropes and addressing basic mechanics
- Preparing the window so other work can proceed

This work opens access to the sash and frame but does not yet complete full M2P.



## Day 2 — Sash Makeover (Strip to Glaze)

- Paint removal
- Glass removal
- Wood repair
- Reglazing

All sash are glazed by Tuesday so putty can cure over Wednesday and Thursday.



## Day 3 — Mechanical Makeover (Part 2) + Frame Work

- Completing remaining mechanical tasks
- Continuing frame preparation and repair
- Introducing frame priming concepts

At this point, M2P has been *experienced in full*, though spread across days.



## Day 4 — Frame Makeover + Finish Preparation

- Primed to Finished Frame (P2F)
- Beginning Glazed to Finished Sash (G2F)
- Hardware preparation

This day bridges structure and finish.



## Day 5 — Finishing, Assembly, and Tuning

- Final sash painting
- Assembled and Tuned Frame (A&T)
- Reinstalling sash
- Final tuning and hardware adjustment

The window is returned to service.



# What This Course Is — and Is Not

This course **is**:

- A complete introduction to authentic window restoration
- A systems-oriented overview of how the work fits together
- A foundation for further skill development and leadership

This course is **not**:

- A mastery course
- A shortcut
- A substitute for real field repetition

It shows participants *what the whole work is*, and why each part matters.

## Who This Course Is For

- Tradespeople entering historic window work
- Preservation-minded builders and carpenters
- Homeowners seeking real understanding
- Individuals exploring Window Craft as a long-term path
- Future Outpost leaders in the making

Everyone is welcome.

Those with leadership capacity will recognize the weight of the responsibility.



## Relationship to Outposts

The Total Window Makeover is taught within **Window Craft Outposts**, where real tools, real systems, and real constraints exist.

This allows participants to see:

- Why sequencing matters
- Why systems exist
- Why leadership is required

The course prepares participants not just to *do* the work — but to understand how the work is organized.

## Final Word

Historic window restoration is not complicated — but it is ordered.

This course exists to introduce people to that order, so they can continue the work with clarity, humility, and competence.