

BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

FEWER FALLEN WINDOWS BUT STILL ONE TOO MANY

- A little effort to check, clean and change windows brings a greater peace of mind to homeowners.

Singapore, 5 June 2015 – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has recorded 17 cases of fallen windows in the first five months of 2015. This is less than the 27 cases recorded in the same period last year.

BCA continues to engage the public through window safety roving exhibitions where homeowners get to see firsthand, what is done during window maintenance and better understand the importance of window safety. Homeowners are encouraged to check, clean and change (when necessary) their windows twice a year on Window Safety Days 6/6 and 12/12.

Under the Building Control (Retrofitting of Casement Window) Order 2004, homeowners are required to change the aluminium rivets of casement windows with stainless steel ones. This applies to windows in all residential units except those in landed properties and the ground floor of buildings.

A little effort, a greater peace of mind

In most instances of fallen casement windows, it was found that aluminium rivets used to secure the friction stays have not been replaced with stainless steel rivets. These aluminium rivets were found to be corroded. Most sliding windows that have fallen did not have safety stoppers and angle strips to secure the window panels, and the windows were not able to slide smoothly along the tracks.

Windows can still fall due to wear and tear and if they are not checked and maintained regularly. All cases of falling windows could have been avoided if windows were maintained regularly through the simple “Check, Clean, Change” regime.

“Prevention is the key to window safety. Singapore is made up of mostly high-rise buildings with countless windows and a fallen window can give rise to grave consequences. Homeowners must take responsibility to check and clean their windows or change them when necessary to ensure the safety of the public and that of your loved ones.” BCA’s Group Director of Building Plan & Management, Mr Chin Chi Leong says.

For homemaker Ms Wong Kia Leng, Karen, maintaining her windows regularly gives her a greater peace of mind. “Knowing that I have checked my windows makes me

feel that I have done my part to ensure that my windows will not fall and hit anyone.” she says.

Homeowners who fail to replace all aluminium rivets in casement windows with stainless steel rivets can be fined up to S\$5,000 and/or sentenced to up to six months in jail. In addition, they can face up to a maximum of S\$10,000 fine and/or jailed for up to one year if a window falls due to lack of maintenance. Since 2006, 288 people have been fined for fallen windows.

Check, Clean, Change

Maintenance of Casement Windows:

- 1) CHECK that fasteners are not rusty or loose
- 2) CLEAN and oil joints or moving parts
- 3) CHANGE aluminium rivets to stainless steel by engaging an approved window contractor

Maintenance of Sliding Windows:

- 1) CHECK that safety stoppers and angle strips are in their proper places
- 2) CLEAN the tracks and ensure window panels can slide smoothly
- 3) CHANGE worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips by engaging an approved window contractor

Window maintenance tips and the list of BCA-approved window contractors can be found at: http://www.bca.gov.sg/window_safety
http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety

Note: A copy of the BCA's window safety poster (2015 edition) is enclosed in the Annex.

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and Housing & Development Board on 5 June 2015

About BCA

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA's mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit www.bca.gov.sg.

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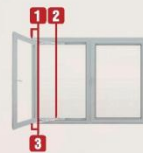
WINDOW SAFETY DAYS

**6
JUN**
&
**12
DEC**

CHECK. CLEAN. CHANGE. A LITTLE EFFORT. A GREATER PEACE OF MIND.

Falling windows can endanger public safety. Homeowners/tenants may face a fine of up to S\$10,000 and/ or a jail term of up to a year if a window falls. So do your part to help keep our community safe by checking your windows twice yearly!

CASEMENT WINDOWS



CHECK
that fasteners are not rusty or loose

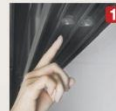
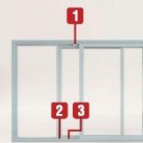


CLEAN
and oil joints or moving parts

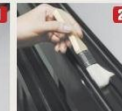


CHANGE
all rivets from aluminium to stainless steel by engaging an approved window contractor

SLIDING WINDOWS



CHECK
that safety stoppers and angle strips are in their proper places



CLEAN
the tracks and ensure window panels can slide smoothly



CHANGE
worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips by engaging an approved window contractor

For more information about window safety and the list of approved contractors:

Visit www.bca.gov.sg/window_safety (BCA) or www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety (HDB)
Call **6334 6473** (BCA) or **1800 225 5432** (HDB)



A Public Service Message From:

Building and Construction Authority

We shape a **safe, high quality, sustainable** and **friendly** built environment.

Supporting Partner:

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

