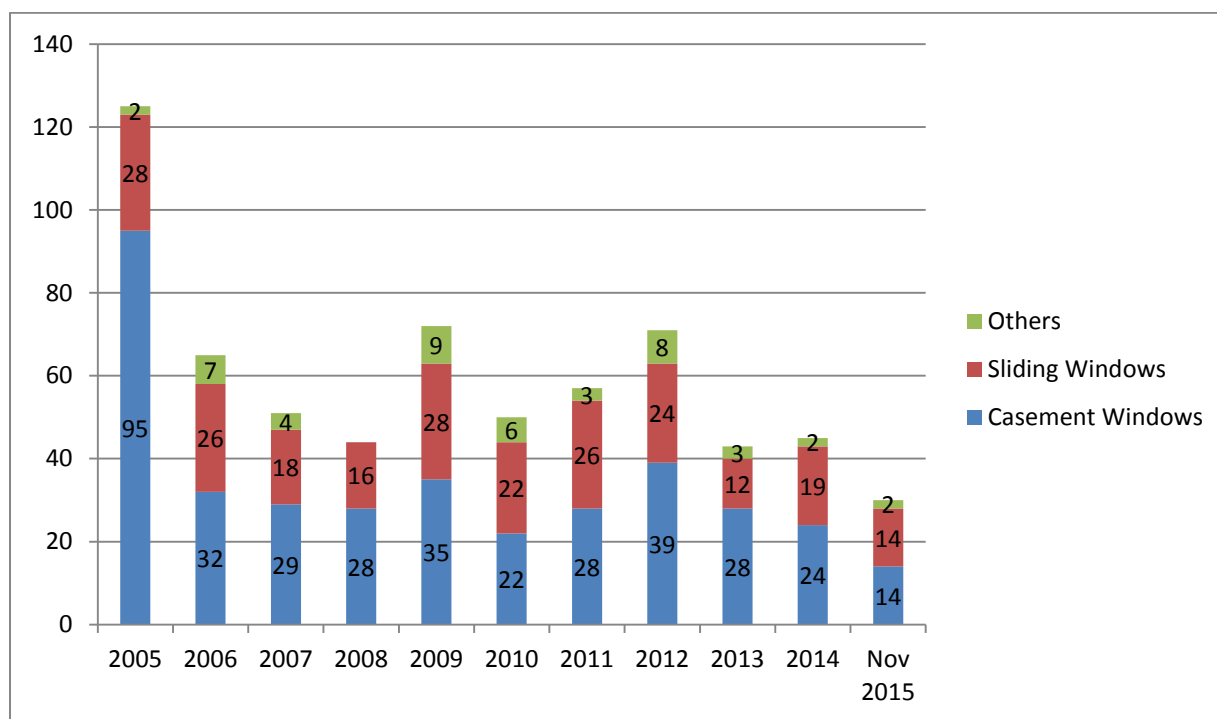


BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

LOWEST NUMBER OF FALLEN WINDOWS IN TEN YEARS

Singapore, 11 December 2015 – The number of fallen windows this year has dropped to a record ten-year low. According to statistics issued by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Housing & Development Board (HDB), there were 30 cases in the first 11 months this year compared to 43 cases in the same period last year. There were no injuries arising from the cases reported this year.



Number of fallen windows

2. Most casement windows dislodge and fall when corroded aluminium rivets fail to secure the windows. Under the window Retrofitting Order implemented in 2004, homeowners are required to replace the aluminium rivets of casement windows with

stainless steel ones. This applies to windows installed in all residential units, except for those in landed properties and ground floor of buildings.

3. Falling windows have serious consequences for public safety. If homeowners fail to comply with the retrofitting requirement under the Building Control Act, they will be guilty of an offence and upon conviction, can be fined up to S\$5,000 and/or face a jail term of up to six months. In addition, if a window falls due to lack of maintenance, under the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act, homeowners will be guilty of an offence and upon conviction, could face a maximum fine of \$10,000 and/or jail term of up to one year. Since 2006, 292 homeowners have been fined for fallen windows.

4. “Although the number of fallen windows is low compared to previous years, this downward trend can only be sustained if homeowners continue to take responsibility and maintain their windows regularly. They should also engage approved window contractors if they wish to do any installation or repair works to their windows,” said Mr Chin Chi Leong, Group Director of Building Plan and Management Group, BCA.

Window Maintenance

5. For casement windows, homeowners should ensure that all rivets are made of stainless steel. They should also **check** that the fasteners are not rusty or loose, and regularly **clean** and lubricate joints or movable parts. For sliding windows, homeowners should **check** that the safety stoppers and/or angle strips are in place and are not damaged. Worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips should be **changed**. They should also **clean** the tracks and ensure that the window panels can slide smoothly (refer to Annex A).

6. “BCA, together with HDB, will continue to conduct its half-yearly “6/6, 12/12” Window Safety public campaign and roving exhibitions at community events to drive greater window safety awareness and educate homeowners on simple window maintenance tips. By playing our part to check and maintain our windows, we can create a safe built environment for Singaporeans,” added Mr Chin.

7. A list of BCA-approved window contractors and window maintenance tips can be found at the following URLs:

http://www.bca.gov.sg/window_safety

http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and Housing & Development Board on 11 December 2015

Annex A: Window Safety Poster

WINDOW SAFETY DAYS

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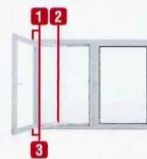
12 DEC

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

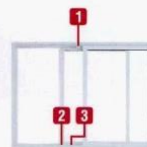


CHECK that fasteners are not rusty or loose

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

