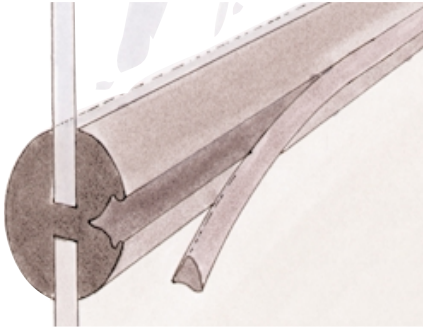


FITTING WINDOWS THE WEATHERSTRIP WAY

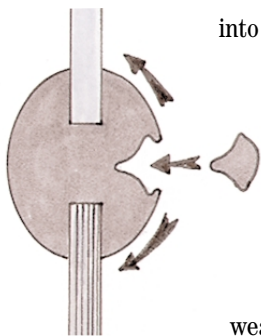
Many small craft have windows held in with rubber seals. These are usually of a type known as Claytonrite or Weatherstrip. It is



a very practical solution, but after a period of time they do have a tendency to leak.

It's a relatively simple task to replace the seals and if the windows are made of plastic it is usually best to renew them at the same time. Glass of course does not degrade like plastic, so all it needs is a good clean before being reused.

The seals are made of extruded rubber and have three recesses. One for the window pane, another for the panel it goes into and a third, specially shaped channel,



into which a locking strip is forced so as to push the seal against the boat and the window ensuring a good weatherproof fit.

It is, of course, necessary to have the correct size of Weatherstrip and this is ascertained by measuring the thickness of the window and of the panel.

To remove the old window:

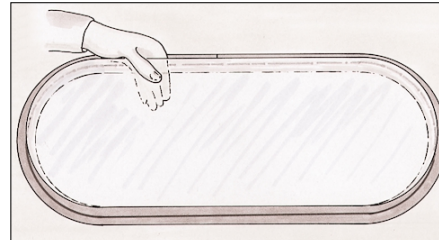
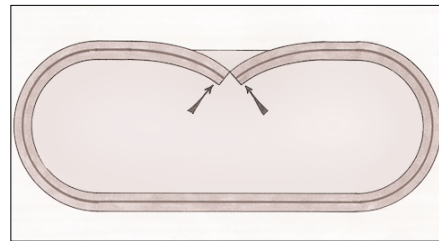
Find the join in the locking strip and hook out the ends. Then pull out the locking strip all the way round. Push the window firmly on the middle and it should come out of the rubber quite easily. It may be advisable to have someone on the other side ready to catch it. If it is a plastic window be careful

not to break it, as you will need it as a template for the new piece. If you are using it as a template for a new window, check how much overlap the rubber seal had all the way round – you may find places where the fit could be improved.

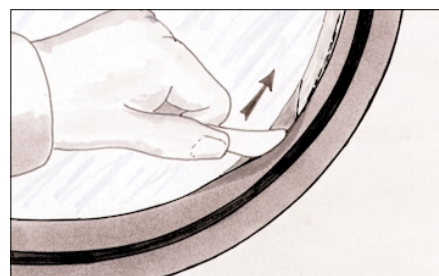
Fitting:

Fit the rubber seal to the aperture pushing it well into the corners to ascertain the length required.

Cut the rubber slightly overlong to make a really tight but-joint and to allow for any shrinkage over the years.



With the rubber firmly in place, push the window into the bottom edge of the weatherstrip. Using something that won't damage the rubber or the window (if you don't have the proper fitting tool, the handle of an old spoon or a bicycle-tyre lever will do nicely) work the lip of the rubber over the edge of the window, using some lubricant if necessary to make it easier, working round to the join in the rubber at the top centre.

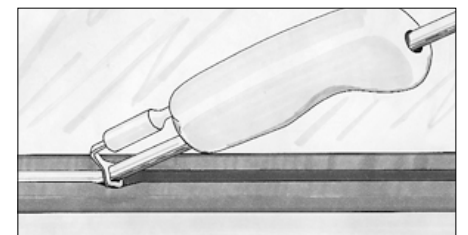


When the window is in the seal all the way round give it a couple of taps with the palm of your hand to make sure that it is seated properly.

To fit the locking strip:

It is easiest if you use the correct tool for the job. You can hire or buy these from Hadlow Marine Services.

Feed the locking strip through the handle of the tool and then through the square shaped eye.



Using plenty of lubricant, work the locking strip into the channel in the weatherstrip starting well away from the join at the top.

Work round the window, being careful not to stretch the locking strip as you go.

Cut the end with about a centimetre of overlap and push it into the groove with a blunt instrument so that it butts the other end with a tight joint.

Tips:

Check new panes for fit in the aperture before you start. You can do this by holding it in place with some short pieces of weatherstrip about 2cm long.

Plain water in a trigger spray dispenser is a good lubricant. Use lots.

Laminated glass should have the edges sealed with a U9 silicone mastic before installation to prevent the laminate from going milky after a couple of years.

It is best to fit the window seals when the temperature is at least 10°C. In cold weather it may be necessary to warm the rubber before installation.