



HOW TO REPLACE/REPAIR SCREENING

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How To Choose The Right Screening

The screening you have to replace will more than likely be **fiberglass** or **aluminum**. Aluminum screening is more difficult to tear or rip, but in time, it may show some corrosion, especially in coastal areas. Fiberglass screening, on the other hand, will not corrode and is easier to install. Fiberglass screening is less expensive than aluminum screening.

If you live in the Sunbelt or a sunny area, you may need **solar** screening. Solar screening helps to reduce up to 90% of the direct sunlight to protect drapes, window treatments, carpets, etc. from fading. There are two types available; reduce up to 75% and reduce up to 90%.

If you have an outdoor swimming pool, you will want to consider **pool and patio** screening. Pool and patio screening is a heavier fiberglass fabric for larger areas such as swimming pools, patios, porches, sun room enclosures, etc..

Pool enclosures may sometimes use **glass** screening around the bottom to keep out grass clippings, bugs and dirt. Glass screening is a pool and patio screening laminated with clear vinyl so there are no holes to allow anything to pass thru.

There are also other types of screening such as **pet** screening, **super screen** screening, **no-see-um** screening, etc. to consider for various applications.



Now that you have determined the type of screening needed, you must measure the screen frames to determine the width and length needed. The screening should overlap the frames about 1" to accommodate nails, staples, or splines. For example, a screen frame that measures 35" wide x 44" long will need at least a 36"x45" piece of screening.

Here's What You Need

For Metal frames:

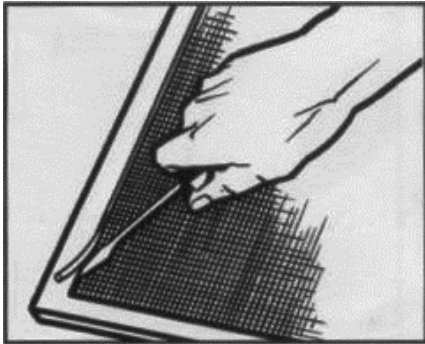
- Screwdriver
- Screen Repair Tool
- Spline
- Utility Knife
- Scissors

For Wood Frames:

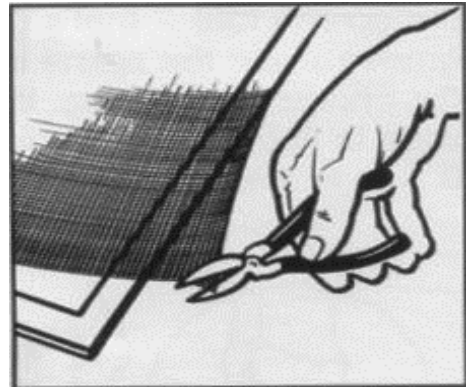
- Putty Knife or Chisel
- Staple Gun
- Two C-clamps
- Two 2"x4" boards (as wide as the frame)
- Hammer
- Nails
- Utility Knife
- Scissors

Replacing Aluminum Screening In Metal Frames

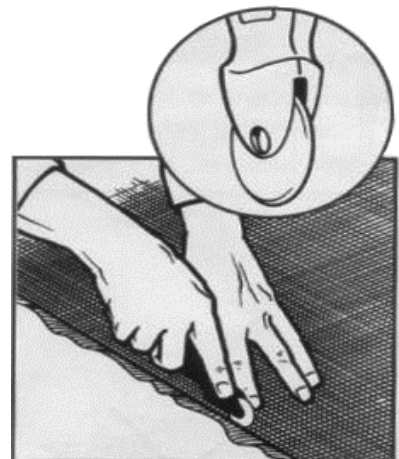
1. Place the frame on your work table with the retainer spline side up. Using a screwdriver, pry the spline loose at one corner, and pull the spline out of the groove all the way around. Remove the old screening, and wipe out any dirt or dust from the groove.



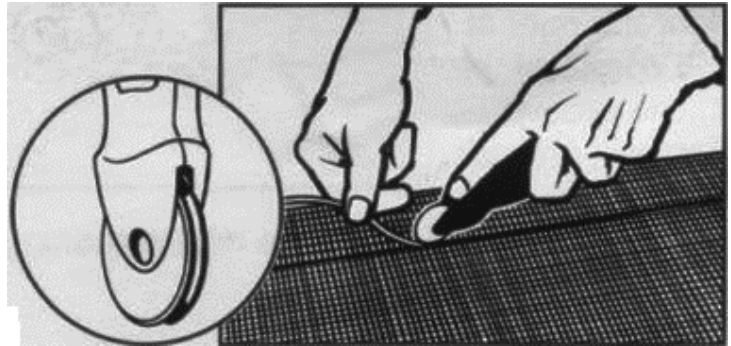
2. Lay the replacement screening, cut about 1 inch wider and longer than the screen area, on the frame. Trim off the corners of the screening at a 45-degree angle, with the center of your cut right at the corner of the spline groove. This will prevent buckling at the corners when you install the new screening.



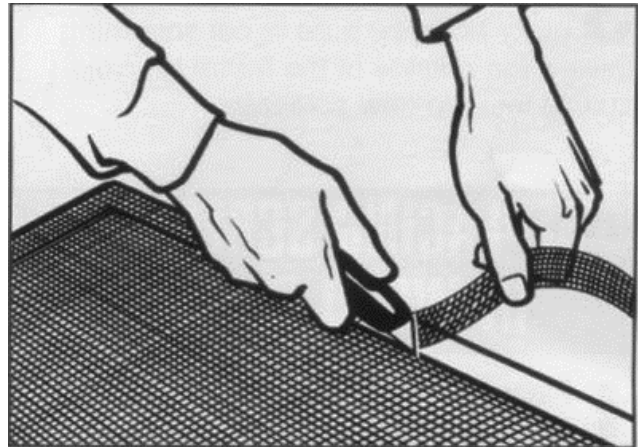
3. Starting at a corner, push the screening into the groove using the convex end of the screen tool. That's the end that has the wheel without a groove in it. To maximize a tight fit, carefully roll the tool roller back and forth in short strokes, increasing pressure and crimping the screening until you've wedged it down into the bottom of the groove completely along one side of the frame. Be sure that the roller stays in the groove or damage may occur to the new screening or the frame.



4. Using a screwdriver, force one end of the spline down into the corner you've just finished. Now, using the concave end of the screen tool - that's the wheel with the groove - roll the spline into the groove over the crimped screening. If the spline is too wide to fit even with some effort, stretch it a little to make it thinner. Complete the first side, then move to the opposite side of the screen and continue crimping the screening first, then installing the spline. Pull the screening taut as you go, by holding it outside the spline groove. Repeat this process on the final two sides.



5. Trim off the excess screening with a utility knife toward the outside of the frame, and the job is done! Be careful not to cut into the new screening.

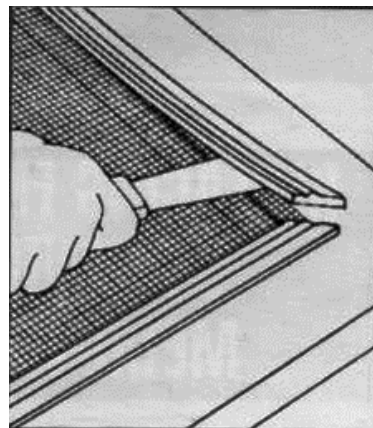


Replacing Fiberglass Screening In Metal Frames

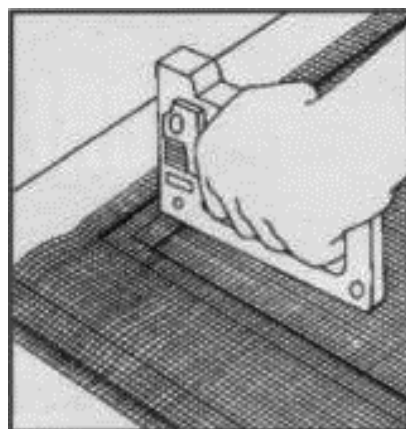
1. Follow steps 1 and 2 in the “Replacing Aluminum Screening in Metal Frames” section.
2. With the concave end of the screen repair tool, start at one corner of the screen, and roll screening and spline into the groove at the same time. Keep the screening straight with the edge of the frame while rolling in the spline. If the screen wrinkles or looks crooked, you can remove the spline and re-roll.
3. Trim off excess screening. When using a utility knife, be sure to cut screening toward the outside of the frame to avoid cutting into the new screening.

Replacing Screening In Wood Frames

1. Place the frame on your work table with the molding side up. Using a putty knife or chisel, gently pry up each strip of the molding. Be careful, because the molding is probably brittle and liable to split. Remove the staples with a screwdriver and lift off the old screening.

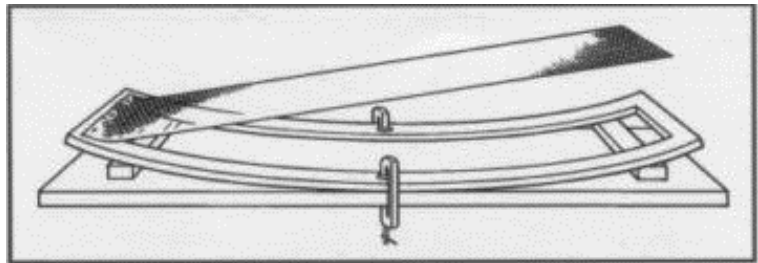


2. Cut the new screening to fit, using the screen frame as a straight edge to guide the knife. Keep the screen mesh as straight as possible, parallel to the frame. Staple the screening to one of the short ends of the frame. Start in the center and work toward each corner to minimize any wrinkling. Staples should be about twelve (12) inches apart.



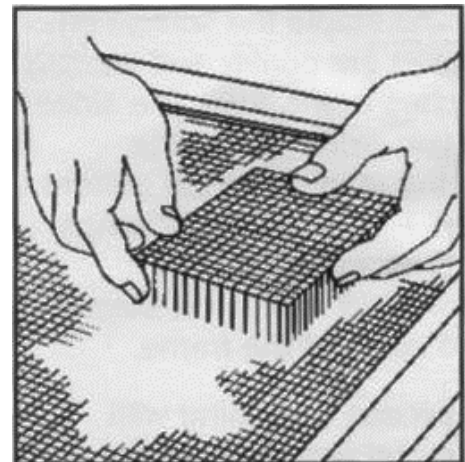
3. Place one 2"x4" board under each end of the frame, and clamp the center of the frame to the table top with the C-clamps. Pull the screening taut over the unfastened end, and staple the screen onto the frame, starting at the center and placing the staples 12 inches apart. Alternate sides, left and right, as you work toward the corners, aligning the staples on the bottom frame with the top. Remove the C-clamps and 2x4's. The frame will spring flat, stretching the screening tight. Now staple the remaining two sides of the frame.

4. Trim off the excess screening with scissors for metal screening and a utility knife for fiberglass. Replace the molding with nails.

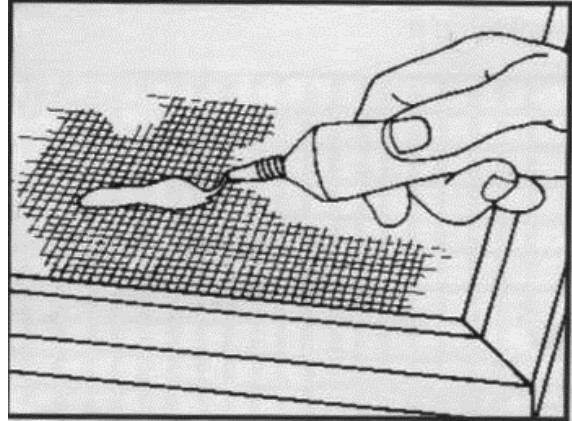


Screen Repair

1. If the damage is minor, let's say a hole about the size of a coin, patching will do. And, you don't even have to take the screen out of the window or door. **For metal screens,** patches are available at any hardware store or home center. Just pick out a patch a little larger than the hole to be covered, unravel the wire about ¼" to ½" on all sides to expose individual strands and bend the strands at the right angles (on some patches this is already done). Place the patch over the hole with the bent strands protruding through the screen, bend the strands back down by hand on the other side and that's it!



- 2.** For fiberglass screens, small holes can be repaired by dapping a few drops of nail polish or household cement over the hole and building it up in layers until the hole is filled in.



- 3.** When patching any screen-metal or fiberglass-get the strands of the patch to line up with the mesh of the screen to make the repair as neat as possible. No matter how careful you are, patching your screening does not look as good as replacing it.

