

Corsair F-24 Window/Portlight Repair

Installing window into an old boat

- Tip... watch this video several times before beginning the process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQyjxVUskd8>

- With windows already removed
 - Remove all old caulk and bonding tape.
 - This task is for the acrylic windows and the cabin top exterior where windows will be mounted.
 - This is the most time consuming task, but nothing will adhere to the old caulk and tape. Be creative and use plastic putty knives (they are cheap), or a piece of acrylic made with a knife edge like a chisel to aid in removal of the caulk and tape. You may still need to use razorblades in windshield scraping tools, but be careful, as you can damage the gelcoat or the acrylic. Change razorblades often.
 - Tape a plastic shopping bag to the side of the boat and drop all debris in the bag.
 - Once all old caulk and tape is removed, clean and clean again using denatured alcohol.
 - This is for windows that will not be removed, but just rebbed: Polish windows using automotive headlight cleaning kit. Suggested kit can be purchased from Walmart or auto discount repair stores: Mothers NuLens Headlight Renewal Kit for about \$20.
 - The kit has a cream polish compound and they suggest that you try this step, before going through the sanding process. I suggest that you start with the wet sanding process, following the instructions in the NuLens kit. Once you complete the full wet sanding process, finish the job by applying and buffing the polishing cream. The acrylic windows will look like new.
 - Using denatured alcohol, wipe the perimeter of the acrylic, where the new tape and caulk will be applied.
 - Using painters (blue) tape, mask the outside perimeter of the window.
- Prepare boat's window frame for acrylic window installation.

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- Now that all of the caulk and tape has been removed, clean the hulls gelcoat sealing surface with denatured alcohol. Now clean it one more time with the alcohol.
- Place the acrylic window in the hull's window frame. Place several spacers around the perimeter to align the window into the original location. Spacers could be popsicle sticks, toothpick or other improvised devices. The key is that the spacers need to aid you in installing the window into the correct orientation when the 3M VHB tape is installed.
- Using 3M VHB tape (VHB stands for very high bond and this stuff takes time to cure, much like epoxy does), tape the hulls window frame's flat surface with the two sided tape. Use razorblades to trim the tape.
- Special note: 3M VHB tape is a one shot deal. Once you place the acrylic window against the tape, it can not be shifted for alignment.
- Using painters (blue) tape, tape the perimeter of where the window will be installed. The tape will be the outer boarder of the new caulk.
- Install the acrylic windows into the hull's window frame.
 - Use two people to aid in placing the acrylic window into the hull's window frame, remove the outer red tape covering from the 3M VHB tape and install the window.
 - Remove the spacers that were placed for window alignment.
- Apply caulk to perimeter of window and hull.
 - The window perimeter and the hull should already have painters tape applied as noted in the previous steps.
 - Place a thrash bag below where you are working and using painters tape, tape the bag in an open position against the hull, to use for placing your items that will have caulk on them.
 - Using Dow Corning 795 black silicon building sealant (<http://www.dowcorning.com/applications/search/default.aspx?r=264en>) and a good caulking gun, cut the tip off of the caulk at a 45% angle with a hole diameter of about 3/16". You will also need to stick something of a small diameter with a point into the end of the caulk tube, where you cut the tip, to break the sealing disk where the plastic tip meets the cartridge's metal top.

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- Apply the caulk around the perimeter of the window. Try to apply enough, where you do not need to apply more overtop of your first pass. Now, with nitrile gloves (<http://www.harborfreight.com/5-mil-nitrile-powder-free-gloves-100-pc-large-61360.html>), using the side of your thumb, wipe the surface of the caulk in insole long strokes, for each side of the window. Wipe excess caulk on paper towels and place in you trash bag that is taped below where you are working.
- Special note: The outer layer of the caulk skins over very fast. To be successful in having yacht quality appearance, it is important that the following perimeters are met:
 - It is best to do this job when it is not sunny and hot (no direct sunlight is best. Is is even better if it is a cool cloudy day, but if not, work early in the morning or later in the evening, to avoid too much heat.
 - The caulk tacks up quickly, so you do not want to continue wiping the surface of the caulk, after you have done it the first time.
- Wait for the caulk to tack up for about 15 minutes, then remove the painters tape from the window and the hull.