

## **BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

### **HOMEOWNERS CAN HELP CREATE A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT WITH REGULAR WINDOW MAINTENANCE**

*43 cases of fallen windows in the first 11 months of 2021*

**Singapore, 11 December 2021** – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) recorded 43 cases of fallen windows in the first 11 months of this year. About half of these, i.e., 22 cases, involved casement windows. The remaining were 16 cases of fallen sliding windows and 5 cases involving other types of windows such as louvre windows. There were no injuries from the cases reported.

2 BCA's investigations of the reported cases show that the main causes of fallen casement and sliding windows include:

- a. The aluminum rivets of casement windows had corroded and they were unable to hold the casement window panels firmly in place. Since 2004, BCA's Retrofitting Order requires all homeowners to replace all aluminum rivets in casement windows with stainless steel ones.
- b. Lack of proper safety stoppers and angle strips to keep sliding window panels within the tracks to prevent dislodgements. Without these safety features in place, the windows became detached and fell when homeowners applied excessive outward force when opening or closing them. Homeowners should check that these safety features for sliding windows are in place, and promptly replace any worn out ones.

3 Also during the same period, BCA was alerted to 12 cases involving windows that were not well-maintained and on the verge of becoming dislodged. For public safety, BCA worked with HDB in engaging owners of these cases to quickly appoint

an Approved Window Contractor to check and repair their windows. Hence, we urge home owners to inspect and maintain their windows regularly.

4 Homeowners can face a penalty of up to S\$5,000 and/or jail term of up to six months for failing to replace all aluminum rivets in casement windows with stainless steel rivets. In addition, if a window falls due to lack of maintenance, homeowners can be fined up to S\$10,000, imprisoned for up to one year, or both. Since 2006, 388 people have been fined and 92 people have been prosecuted for fallen windows.

5 BCA Group Director (Building Resilience) Er. Thanabal Kaliannan said, “As Singapore has many high-rise buildings and a dense built environment, each fallen window is dangerous that could potentially cause death or serious injuries. All homeowners and occupants can play a part to mitigate this risk by checking and maintaining their windows regularly. Together, we can keep our community and living environments safe.”

6 All windows may detach and fall when their parts become loosened or defective over time due to wear and tear. Homeowners and occupants can do their part by checking and maintaining their windows at least once every six months:

|                 | <b>Casement Windows</b>                                                                | <b>Sliding Windows</b>                                                               |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>CHECK</b>  | that fasteners are not rusty or loose.                                                 | that safety stoppers and angle strips are in their proper places.                    |
| • <b>CLEAN</b>  | and oil joints or moving parts.                                                        | the tracks and ensure window panels can slide smoothly.                              |
| • <b>CHANGE</b> | all aluminum rivets to stainless steel ones by engaging an approved window contractor. | worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips by engaging an approved window contractor. |

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

- <https://go.gov.sg/windowsafety/>

- [http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window\\_safety](http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety)

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**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and Housing & Development Board  
on 11 December 2021**

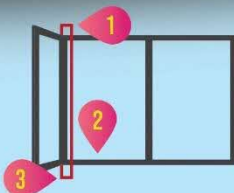
# 6.6 & 12.12

Save these dates to check your windows!  
Do your part to keep our community safe.  
Homeowners/tenants may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or face a jail term of up to 1 year if a window falls from their units.



**CHECK • CLEAN • CHANGE  
YOUR WINDOWS**

## CASEMENT WINDOWS



**1 CHECK**  
that **fasteners** are not rusty or loose

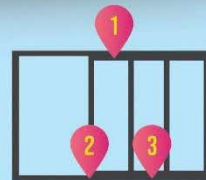


**2 CLEAN**  
and **oil** joints or moving parts



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

## 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



Scan QR code (BCA)

For more information about window safety/list of approved window contractors:  
visit [go.gov.sg/windowsafety](http://go.gov.sg/windowsafety) (BCA) or [www.hdb.gov.sg/window\\_safety](http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety) (HDB)  
Call 6334 6473 (BCA) or 1800 225 5432 (HDB)



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