

How to Replace a Drip Cap or Water Table

A drip cap prevents rain water from damaging your doors and windows.

A drip cap, or water table, is a device that directs water away from the top of a door or window. Drip caps are typically installed as a preventive measure to prevent the underlying wood from rotting. They are usually made of rot-resistant wood. Replacing a damaged drip cap can save you cash by preventing further damage to the door or window.

Instructions

1. Remove the course of siding above the window (if needed), then slowly pry out the old drip cap with the thin edge of a small pry bar. Scrape away any leftover sealant or debris to remove any obstacles that may prevent the new drip cap from sliding flush to the wall, using a paint scraper.
2. Apply a strip of self-adhesive waterproof membrane along the top of the window casing, then trim the membrane flush with the top of the window casing. Apply a generous bead of exterior-grade sealant along the joint where the top of the casing meets the membrane, then slide the drip cap into place. Align the center of the drip cap to the center of the window.
3. Cut both sides of the drip cap where the edges extend over the length of the window. Fold the edges downward to prevent rain from seeping water under the cap. Apply caulk generously along the joint where the top edge of the drip cap touches the membrane. Allow the sealant to completely dry according to its manufacturer's instructions.