

OTTAWA CONSTRUCTION CLEANING

Window & Glass Cleaning

Post-construction window cleaning, manufacturer label and adhesive removal, hard water stain treatment, and restoring glass surfaces after building work.

4 Expert Answers from Clean IQ

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Can Ottawa post-construction cleaners fix scratched glass or do I need a glass repair specialist?

Post-construction cleaning professionals cannot repair scratched glass — they focus on removing construction debris, dust, paint spots, and adhesive residue from glass surfaces, but scratched or damaged glass requires a specialized glass repair technician or complete replacement.

Most Ottawa cleaning contractors carry glass-safe solvents and use proper techniques to remove construction-related contaminants from windows without causing additional damage. They use razor blades to carefully scrape off paint overspray, adhesive residue from protective films, and concrete splatter. Professional cleaners also have the right cloths and squeegees to clean new glass without introducing scratches during the cleaning process itself. However, once glass is already scratched from construction activity — whether from grinding sparks, dragging tools across windows, or cleaning with contaminated cloths that contained grit — the damage is permanent and beyond what cleaning can address.

In Ottawa's construction market, scratched glass is unfortunately common during renovation and new build projects. The extreme temperature swings from minus 30 to plus 35 degrees Celsius cause building materials to expand and contract, sometimes shifting protective coverings on windows. Construction dust becomes especially abrasive during Ottawa's dry winter months when indoor humidity drops to 15-20 percent, making even fine particles more likely to scratch glass surfaces during cleaning attempts. **Clay-rich soil tracked in from job sites creates particularly abrasive particles** that can scratch glass if not properly removed before window cleaning begins.

Glass repair specialists in the Ottawa area can sometimes polish out very light surface scratches using specialized compounds and equipment, but this service typically costs \$150-400 per window depending on the size and severity of scratching. Deep scratches, chips, or cracks require complete glass replacement, which runs \$200-800 per window for standard residential sizes. The Ontario Building Code requires that any glass replacement in habitable areas meet current safety standards, which may mean upgrading to tempered or laminated glass even if the original was standard annealed glass.

The best approach is prevention during construction — ensure contractors properly protect windows with appropriate film or boards, and verify that your post-construction cleaning team uses clean cloths and proper glass-cleaning techniques. When hiring cleaning professionals, confirm they understand the difference between cleaning glass and repairing it, and ask about their insurance coverage for accidental glass damage during cleaning.

For glass repair specialists and post-construction cleaning contractors in Ottawa, you can browse both categories through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to compare local options and get

multiple quotes.

Q2

What is the safest way to clean mortar splatter off new tempered glass panels in Ottawa?

Mortar splatter on new tempered glass requires immediate attention and extremely gentle techniques to avoid permanent scratching or etching. New glass is particularly vulnerable to damage because construction debris particles can act like sandpaper when dragged across the surface during cleaning.

Safe Removal Methods for Ottawa Conditions

The safest approach starts with **never using a razor blade or scraper** on tempered glass with mortar splatter. Instead, begin by soaking the affected areas with warm water mixed with a few drops of dish soap. Ottawa's dry winter air means mortar residue becomes exceptionally hard and brittle, so extended soaking time of 15 to 20 minutes is essential to soften the material before any removal attempts.

For stubborn mortar spots, use a **plastic putty knife or credit card edge** to gently lift softened material. Work at a shallow angle and never apply pressure that could crack the tempered glass. Commercial grout haze removers designed specifically for glass surfaces work well for mortar film, but test any product on an inconspicuous corner first. These products typically cost 15 to 25 dollars per litre at Ottawa building supply stores.

White vinegar mixed with warm water (one part vinegar to four parts water) effectively dissolves lime mortar residue without harsh chemicals. However, avoid vinegar on glass panels with metal frames, as it can cause corrosion. For cement-based mortars common in Ottawa construction, a specialized concrete dissolver may be necessary, but these products require careful application and thorough rinsing.

Ottawa's extreme temperature swings mean timing matters significantly. **Never attempt cleaning when glass panels are hot from direct sunlight** or extremely cold, as thermal shock combined with cleaning stress can shatter tempered glass. Early morning or late afternoon cleaning sessions work best during summer months.

The biggest risk with DIY mortar removal is using contaminated cleaning cloths that contain grit particles from previous cleaning. Always use fresh, lint-free cloths and rinse them frequently in clean water. Professional cleaning contractors use specialized glass-safe solvents that cost 40 to 60 dollars per litre but remove mortar residue without surface damage risk.

For extensive mortar contamination across multiple large panels, professional cleaning typically costs **300 to 800 dollars** depending on the number and size of glass surfaces. This investment protects against costly glass replacement, which can run 200 to 500 dollars per panel plus installation. Professional cleaners carry insurance coverage for accidental glass damage and have experience with Ottawa's common mortar types and glass installations.

When mortar splatter covers more than 20 percent of your glass surfaces or involves hard-to-reach panels, hiring a professional through the Ottawa Construction Network directory ensures safe, effective removal without risking expensive glass replacement.

Q3

How do I clean fogged-up window tracks filled with construction dust in my Ottawa home?

Fogged windows with dust-filled tracks are a classic post-construction problem that requires a systematic approach to restore both clarity and function. The fogging typically occurs when fine construction dust settles into the track drainage holes and weather sealing, while the glass itself may have a film from airborne particles that have been circulating through your HVAC system during construction work.

Start by removing loose debris from the tracks using a shop vacuum with a crevice attachment, though be aware that a standard household vacuum will simply blow fine dust particles back into the air. **HEPA filtration is essential for construction dust removal** — these particles are often smaller than 10 microns and will recirculate without proper filtration. Work from the outside corners of each track toward the center, paying special attention to the weep holes (small drainage openings) that allow moisture to escape.

For the actual cleaning, create a solution of warm water with a few drops of dish soap. Use an old toothbrush or small detailing brush to scrub the track channels, working the bristles into the corners where dust accumulates. **Ottawa's winter construction season creates especially fine dust** because indoor humidity drops to 15-20 percent during heating season, making particles more likely to become airborne and settle into every crevice. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry completely with a microfiber cloth.

The fogged glass itself requires careful attention to avoid scratching. Construction sites often have abrasive particles that can permanently damage new windows if trapped in cleaning cloths. Use a fresh microfiber cloth dampened with glass cleaner, working in straight lines rather than circular motions. **For stubborn construction film, a razor blade held at a 45-degree angle can safely remove paint overspray or adhesive residue** — but only on glass, never on the frame or weather stripping.

In Ottawa's climate, window track maintenance is particularly important because our extreme temperature swings from minus 30 to plus 35 degrees Celsius put significant stress on window seals. Clogged drainage holes can cause ice buildup in winter that damages the window mechanism. **Clean tracks ensure proper drainage and prevent the moisture problems that lead to fogging between panes.**

For extensive post-construction window cleaning involving multiple floors, skylights, or large picture windows, professional cleaning makes sense both for safety and results. Commercial window cleaning equipment and experience with construction residue removal can save time and prevent damage to expensive new windows. You can browse cleaning contractors who specialize in post-construction work through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com.

What is the risk of cleaning new windows in freezing temperatures in Ottawa?

Cleaning new windows in Ottawa's freezing temperatures poses serious risks that can cause permanent damage and create safety hazards. The combination of extreme cold and delicate new glass surfaces makes winter window cleaning particularly dangerous for both the windows themselves and the people attempting the work.

Temperature-Related Window Damage

Thermal shock is the primary risk when cleaning windows in freezing conditions. When you apply warm or hot cleaning water to glass that has been sitting at minus 20 or minus 30 degrees Celsius, the rapid temperature change can cause the glass to crack or shatter completely. New windows are especially vulnerable because they haven't had time to settle and may still have installation stress in the frame. Double-pane windows face additional risk because temperature differences between the inner and outer panes can break the seal, leading to fogging between the glass layers that requires complete window replacement.

Ice formation during the cleaning process creates multiple problems. Cleaning solution freezes almost instantly on the glass surface in Ottawa's winter temperatures, leaving streaks and residue that become nearly impossible to remove until spring. Worse, ice can form in window tracks and weatherstripping, potentially damaging the sealing mechanisms that keep your new windows energy-efficient. Water that seeps into frame joints and freezes expands, which can crack vinyl frames or damage wood components.

Chemical cleaning products behave unpredictably in extreme cold. Most window cleaning solutions are water-based and will freeze solid before you can properly clean and squeegee the surface. Even products with antifreeze additives may not work effectively below minus 15 degrees Celsius. The cleaning process becomes ineffective because you cannot properly rinse and dry the surface before everything freezes.

Safety and Practical Concerns

Ladder work in freezing temperatures is extremely dangerous. Ice on rungs, frozen gloves that reduce grip strength, and metal ladders that become brittle in extreme cold all increase the risk of serious falls. Professional window cleaners in Ottawa typically suspend exterior window cleaning from November through March for safety reasons. **Working with wet equipment and cleaning solutions in freezing temperatures also poses hypothermia and frostbite risks** to exposed skin.

The best practice is to wait until temperatures consistently stay above 5 degrees Celsius before attempting any exterior window cleaning. For new windows that need immediate attention due to construction residue, focus

only on interior cleaning using room-temperature water and ensure the space is properly heated. If exterior cleaning is absolutely necessary during winter, hire a professional who has heated cleaning solutions, proper cold-weather safety equipment, and experience working in Ottawa's extreme conditions.

For connecting with experienced window cleaning professionals who understand Ottawa's climate challenges, homeowners can browse contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com using the cleaning services filter.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Construction Cleaning. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any post-construction cleaning or renovation cleanup project. Information is current as of July 12, 2026 and may change. Visit ottawaconstructioncleaning.com for the latest answers.