

Window tilt latch replacement

So, what's a "tilt latch" exactly? Here's a photo:



There are two on the top edge of each lower window half that opens, holding the frame in its track, and the tongue slides back so the frame can be tilted inward for cleaning. They are plastic and they get broken from age (they're exposed to the harshest sunlight) and from accidental abuse. When both of them break, there is nothing to keep the pane from tilting inward on its own, letting in outside dirt and air of course, but also allowing the whole half of the window to fall inward and break when you're trying to raise it. They need to be kept working, and replacement is actually easy, and cheap.

Finding correct replacements

There are dozens of designs for these, and finding the right one takes a bit of detective work. First, pull out one of the old ones so you know what the whole thing looks like.

Trip both latches by holding the little spring-loaded knobs back, tilt the window frame back into the room, and support it on a chair or something so you don't have to hold it. The latches can be pulled out of their slots with a pair of needle-nose pliers.



Grip the bottom part of the latch with the pliers and give a good hard tug on it. It will slide out and you can see all of the latch to compare it to pictures of replacement ones.



Here's how to grip it without damaging the plastic.



Here's the culprit. Keep a ruler handy while you hunt for its replacement.

Amazon, my favorite hunting ground, has an amazing range of these. Search Amazon for "window tilt latch," and check the measurement specs against your old one. Use this link if yours look absolutely the same as the ones in these photos:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00DS4DGTC/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o05_s00?ie=UTF8&p_sc=1

Here's the way they are packaged. You get a right-and-left pair. I ordered two sets just in case they aren't available in the future. Our windows are ten years old already.



And here's a new one installed. It just pressed into place and is located by the lugs on the body of the latch.

One small problem: the body of the latches fit perfectly, but the tongue that fits into the groove in the window frame had too much plastic on the edge and wouldn't click into the groove. I **very carefully** sanded it back a bit and shaped a lightly sloped ramp on the tip to allow it to fit into the groove.

Here's a last photo before and after the trimming. Amazon reviews of these latches mention these small mods quite a bit, so it must be pretty common to have to do it.

Before tilting the window back in place, hold both the knobs back against their springs to keep from jamming against the little arrow-shaped tongues.



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