

Window Well Cover Safety

Please read this safety information completely before installing your Window Well Cover. Do not hesitate to contact a Lustercraft representative with any questions regarding safety toll-free at 1-800-362-2492 (locally call 942-8451).

About window wells in general:

An egress basement window well's main function is to allow an occupant to escape from the basement during an emergency if the primary stairway and/or ground level exit has become inaccessible.

Ironically, a basement window well creates a hazard in itself because of the risk of a person falling into the well while on the grounds surrounding the well. (Your Lustercraft Window Well Cover eliminates this risk.)

Secondary benefits of having a window well are: natural lighting in the basement, and the option of opening the basement window for fresh air.

Many people like to decorate inside/around the well or basement window. Please remember that this can pose a hazard if decorations create an obstacle to the escape path from the basement. Function over fashion is always the rule in regards to safety.

Ladders:

The first accessory you should have for your window well is a ladder. Without it, your window well is useless as an escape route from the basement. Even those who are young and spry enough to scramble out of the well without a ladder may become weakened or confused in the event of a fire or other emergency. A ladder is the most essential piece of equipment you can have.

It should be noted that when you cap the top of your window well with a cover (by Lustercraft or others), the ladder should be mounted in a position that provides an individual with the easiest method of escape. With a Lustercraft Window Well Cover, that means mounting the ladder directly underneath the lock.

If you have an existing ladder, and are installing a Lustercraft Window Well Cover, the ladder may need to be re-installed to be positioned directly underneath the lock.

If you do not have the means to re-install your ladder in the proper position, contact a local dealer or contractor to do it for you.

Escape:

Never place anything on top of the window well cover. This includes but is not limited to: Garden hoses, yard decorations, landscaping material, potted plants, tools, etc. Doing so will make the operational escape hatch too heavy for a person inside the well to open.

For those customers that live in colder climates, the accumulation of snow can pose the same threat as mentioned above. That is, the operational escape hatch becomes too heavy to push open from inside the well. It is your responsibility to make sure that snow is removed from the top of the escape hatch and that ice has not frozen the unit closed.

Practice:

It is always a good idea to have all of the occupants of the house practice using the window well, the ladder, and Window Well Cover as a means of escape from the basement. Designate an area well away from the house as a place for everyone to meet in case a fire or emergency does occur.

Safety Check:

It is also recommended that you check the functionality of your basement window, ladder, and Window Well Cover periodically to make sure that nothing will hinder escape from the basement. Repair or replace any equipment that appears to be damaged or not functioning properly. Basement windows should unlock and open easily. Ladders should be securely anchored to the well wall, and the Window Well Cover should unlock, open, and support itself easily.

We suggest that you perform these checks every three months or less. A good way to remember is to perform the check when you replace the air filter for your forced air unit (Recommended every three months).



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