



| Sliding systems from Weather Shield for greater comfort and thermal insulation

## Weather Shield, USA

# “Innovation is our mission”

■ **Timber** “Innovation is an intrinsic part of the Weather Shield DNA,” says Marketing Director Chris Schield. He is a member of the third generation of the family that founded a production site for timber building elements in 1955. To date, the company remains based in Medford, Wisconsin, and has been a close partner to Fasco and Roto for a number of years.

Testament to the extraordinarily trusting collaboration between the two companies are their “innovation workshops”, in which the two partners put all their cards on the table, so to speak. Both companies have continuously benefited from this open exchange. For example, the Sliding Patio Door from the Contemporary Collection turned out to be a real winning hand for both parties.

### Recognised for best design

The sliding system’s widely anticipated market launch took place in the USA and Canada in 2019. Last year, a jury of designers and architects presented it with the “Record Product Award”. The leading magazine for design and architecture in America awards this prize to products in eight categories that have impressed them with their quality design and functionality. Above all, it was the Weather Shield product developers who were honoured – but some recognition is also due to Roto for their work on developing the Patio Inowa hardware, says Schield.

**“Being part of a team with Roto doesn’t make us good – it makes us better.”**

With its innovative closing movement, this hardware is perfectly adapted for very narrow Weather Shield design profiles. “This is what makes it possible for us to manufacture tightly sealed sliding systems in accordance with resistance class RC 2 on a large scale and using all key diagrams,” explains Schield.

### Smart, smarter, smartest

Since the award ceremony, however, these manufacturers have not been resting on their laurels. When technologically and aesthetically leading products such as the Sliding Patio Door are positioned on the market successfully, it is generally agreed that it pays off to maintain the lead over the competition and to stretch this advantage. Despite its success, the new sliding system remained on the agenda for the joint workshops. After all:

**“This is the meeting place for people who never run out of ideas.”**

Schield happily recalls exchanging ideas with Roto over the past year, saying “We jointly considered whether we could use innovative ideas of comfort to further develop and promote the Roto Patio Inowa sliding system with its unique closing movement and excellent sealing.” The results of this collaborative thinking have since acquired names: SoftClose, SoftOpen and SoftStop.

### Soft comfort

The key component is a gas spring made of steel. It is tensioned when the sash is opened (SoftOpen) or closed (SoftClose), storing energy for subsequent automatic movement of the sash. The SoftClose function of the Roto Patio Inowa causes the sliding sash to be gently braked, automatically pulled shut and closed. The SoftOpen function briefly brakes the sash after opening and then pulls it automatically into the open final position.

From January 2021, Weather Shield will sell sliding systems with Roto Patio Inowa that come with one of these two comfort functions as standard. The company has thereby become one of the first users of these functions worldwide. Schield is convinced:

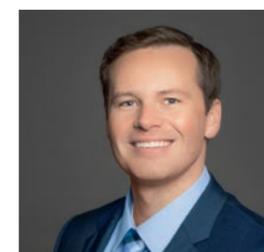
**“With this, we are setting new benchmarks for operating convenience.”**

Due to growing interest in very large sliding sashes and maximum transparency in the USA and Canada, the third version of the gas-spring-based function will also be used with Weather Shield in the future. “Whenever customers want large systems with very wide, heavy sashes, we will use Roto Patio Inowa with the SoftStop function, as this allows the sashes to be closed more easily.” In this version, the intelligent sliding hardware can be used even with sash weights of more than 200 kg.

### High-tech handiwork

“At Weather Shield, we combine handicraft and engineering skills in order to develop the highest quality windows and doors. Our building elements help architects, construction companies and homeowners to push the boundaries of what is possible. Not a day goes by without us working to make our products even better.”

When doing so, the environmental responsibility of the company and its customers is always at the forefront. Tightly sealed building elements such as the Sliding Patio Door make a significant contribution to reducing the demand for energy arising from use of the building; this issue is very close to the Weather Shield developers’ hearts. “Through the innovative use of materials and the design of our products, we play a part in ensuring that our current range includes many stylish models that bear the Energy Star® label. In this respect, too, hardware from Roto plays a key role.” [www.weathershield.com](http://www.weathershield.com)



| Chris Schield, Marketing Director, Weather Shield Mfg, Inc., Wisconsin

| As standard for sashes weighing over 200 kg in the Sliding Patio Door from Weather Shield:



➤ For more information about the intelligent hardware with concealed technology for tightly sealed sliding doors

[www.roto-frank.com/en/roto-patio-inowa/](http://www.roto-frank.com/en/roto-patio-inowa/)