

Entry Door Buyer's Guide



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Entry doors provide a number of important functions for your home. Because of this, the doors you use on the exterior of your home need to be more carefully considered than doors elsewhere in your home. Unlike other doors in your home, entry doors need to have everything: security, aesthetics, energy efficiency and function. The purpose of this guide is to serve as an entry door buyer's guide for anyone looking to upgrade the look of their home.

I) What Are The Different Types Of Exterior Doors?

There are three main types of exterior doors. These include a solid door, which is commonly used as an entryway door. There are also screen doors, which can be placed in front of a solid entryway door or in front of a sliding glass door elsewhere on the exterior. Some screen doors can stand on their own - these have screened sections with a glass pane that slides to close or open the screen to the outside.

Finally, there are sliding glass doors that are commonly used for patios. All doors can come in a variety of styles, such as French doors, which are popular choices for exterior patios. Doors leading to garages can have a hybrid of interior and exterior door features. They are usually solid panel doors.

II) What Are They Made Out Of & The Pros & Cons Of Each



There are a number of different materials that exterior doors can be made from. Each have their advantages and disadvantages, which will be outlined below.

Wood: Wood offers a high-end look to your home and can be ornately carved into all sorts of unique designs. The downside is that they are more expensive. They also require more maintenance than other types of materials in order to retain their look.

Steel: Steel is a very popular choice for an exterior door material. In fact, steel doors represent roughly half the market. Steel is reasonably priced and offers good security. It is also energy efficient and doesn't require much maintenance. However, dents can be hard to repair and steel doesn't hold up as well against weather.

Fiberglass: Fiberglass doors are better at resisting wear and tear than doors made from steel are. They can come in a variety of looks, including a smooth surface or even an embossed wood texture. They can be painted just about any color. Fiberglass doors are much more likely to crack upon sustaining a major impact, however.

Sliding Glass Doors: These doors are made from glass and slide to the side instead of utilizing hinges. They are commonly used as back doors and almost never as front doors. They allow you to see outside better but are less secure.



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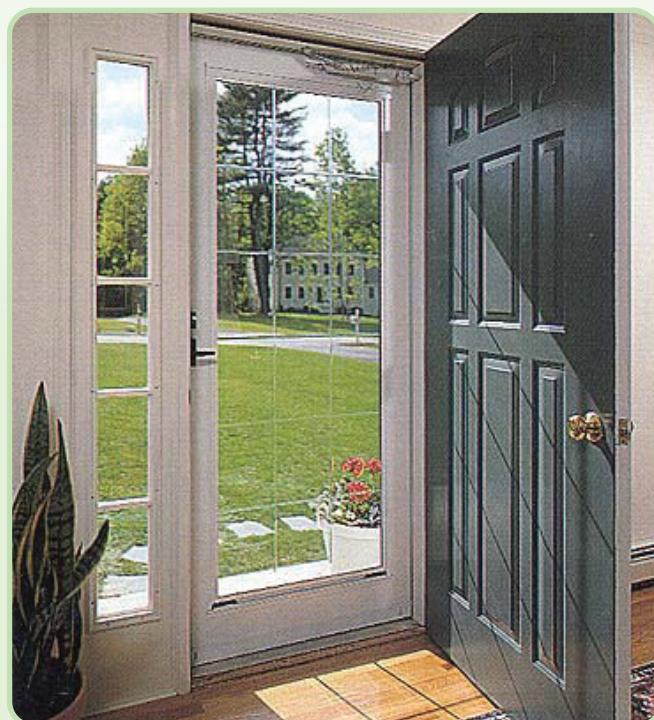
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Screen Doors: Screen doors allow better air circulation throughout your home in the warmer months. The big disadvantage of screen doors is the lack of security. Screen doors can be used as a part of your entryway door, although they will need a stronger, more secure door behind them.

Doors can also be made from a mixture of the above materials. For example, many entry doors include decorative glass, or allow it to be added. You can consider different combinations when finding the right door for your home.



III) What's The BEST Type Of Door For Your Home



The best type of door for your house depends on a number of different factors. For example, what color or material fits the best with the existing color of your home? Or are you planning to redo the exterior of your house, repaint it a different color or otherwise change its appearance? You should take into account the overall look of your home - or what you want that overall look to be - when deciding on any exterior door.

Another factor that can determine what kind of door you should get is where you live. For example, if you live in a hurricane-prone area, you will want doors that can withstand the high impact of debris slamming into them during a storm. In some areas, hurricane-safe doors and windows are part of building codes. These doors can be reinforced with steel, feature impact-resistant glass and have aluminum frames.

Another good example is wildfire-prone areas. Areas like California commonly experience wildfires, and exterior doors that can shield your home from the blaze are a smart investment. If you live in a flood-prone area, you should also take that into consideration when shopping for entryway doors. Some models provide greater resistance to water infiltration.

IV) Why Would You Want A New Door?



It might be time to upgrade your door if you are noticing the following:

The door is old: If the door is old and worn, it may need replacing. Signs that the door is worn enough to not be providing its intended function include gaps between the frame and the door itself, a noticeable draft or obvious warping or cracking. Do note that gaps between the door and the frame could also indicate foundation issues in your home, so if your house appears to be slanted it would be best to get a professional to analyze it.

You are redoing your house: Whether you are repainting your shutters or redoing the siding on your home, it may be best to get a new door at the same time as well. An older door that hasn't been updated may take away from the look you are trying to achieve.

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You are about to move: Curb appeal is incredibly important when selling your home, and redoing the entrance to your home is one of the most effective changes you can make so the home will be more attractive to buyers. If you are preparing to sell your home and your front door is not particularly attractive, you definitely want to look at getting it replaced.

You want a new door: Sometimes, you just don't like the color or style of an existing door and want a new one. As long as you can afford the upgrade, you can change the exterior doors on your home as much as you want. If you are trying to make your home more energy efficient, you may also choose to install a new front door because they can lower energy use.

Your home has been burglarized: This is not a scenario any homeowner wants to face. However, if a burglar was able to break into your home because of an insufficient exterior door, that might be a very good reason to look into getting a new door, or even a new set of exterior doors.

Winter is coming: If you have been considering getting a new door for some time and winter is on the way, you should get it done before cold weather sets in. It's better to replace or add an exterior door when the weather outside is nice. You don't want to try and keep the cold air and snow out when the weather is poor.

V) How Much Should Custom Doors Cost?

Custom doors are going to cost more than regular models. In spite of that, they can give your home a much more personalized look and be crafted to meet your exact needs. In some cases you may even need a custom door. For example, you might need a custom door if the frame is an odd measurement, as they are in some houses. Most regular doors cost between \$1700.00 to \$4500.00 installed. However, custom doors can be considerably more depending on what needs to be done. It will all depend on the materials used, how difficult the installation may be, how luxurious your home is, personal preference and more. Seasonal discounts may apply as well, as contractors often offer discounts during slow times of the year.



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VI) Choosing the RIGHT Custom Door Installation Company

Choosing the right installation company for your new door is important. Installation of the door may be simple or more difficult depending on the circumstances, so it's best to let a professional handle it. For example, adding a new door into an existing wall is going to be much more difficult than replacing an existing door. If you need a custom door, you will want to look for you will want to look for custom door installers in Michigan. A custom door installer will take a look at your home and help you come up with the design of the door you want.



You will want to look at vendors who have experience making and installing custom exterior doors. Make sure that they are licensed and insured. Asking for recommendations and reading online reviews can give you a good idea of the custom doors Michigan contractors who may be in your area. Ask for estimates from every contractor you are considering working with and then choose based on your impression, examples of their past work, the price and the services offered.

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The importance of entry doors on your home, whether a sliding glass door on your back patio or the main front door, cannot be understated. They give your home much of its character and help form the first impression most people have upon visiting your home. If you are considering or are in need of a new door, consider the options you have available to you, find a good contractor and then get it installed. Your home will be safer, more energy efficient and look amazing. Still have questions or like a FREE Replacement Windows Estimate? Contact us now for more information (616)226-9547

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Formerly West Michigan Glass Block

**2131 Martindale Ave SW
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