

DOORS 101:

Whether or not you need one door or want to replace all of your doors there is homework you can do to simplify the chore and the info below will go a long way to making door shopping a LOT easier. The crew at Extras will do all they can to help you but please understand that it's a matter of your going through the doors to get what you need and yep, you may need to come back a few times to get it all done.

INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR?

This makes a big diff though they can be interchangeable, it isn't a good idea because interior are 1-3/8" thick and exterior are 1-3/4", further both are made for the individual applications (insulated exterior), and a hollow core interior door is never applicable in an exterior location.

Doors are manufactured in various materials. Exterior: Solid Core, Metal, Fiberglass and Wood. Check your county's code requirements, depending on where you are and if there is an inspector involved you'll need a fire door (Google it). Interior: Hollow Core (any number of things can be in a hollow core but the operative word is HOLLOW), Solid core and wood. The choice of materials is up to you but if you have growing boyz, we recommend solid or wood.

SLAB OR PRE-HUNG?

Check your door jamb, which is the thing the door hangs in. If it's in bad shape be prepared to start from scratch with a prehung door (see below), folks there really isn't any point in putting a new door into an old crummy jamb. If your jambs are in good shape you'll just need a **Slab** which can be hung in the existing jamb. A jamb can be built for slab doors as well and Extras has everything you need: jambs, door stop, hinges and knobs. Some are bored (hole cut for door knob) and mortised (routed for hinges), some are half bored for a sliding closet door and some have no bore, no mortise meaning you'll have to have that done before it can be hung (we do not do the bore/mortise thing). Remember: slabs without B&M can be used for barn doors.

A **pre-hung** is a door that is in the jamb ready to be installed and 9 out of 10 contractors will want your doors pre-hung because it's a lot easier and less work. We call foul on that and believe that any contractor worth his/her salt should have that knowledge and the tools required to do the work and if the jambs are in good shape they really don't need to be replaced. You will however be paying the labor to have the doors hung and in the contractors' defense there may be time and labor constraints which prohibit the extra work.

Depending on you, your budget, your time, your desire to learn and if you want to be a true DIYer there are numerous utube videos that have step by step instructions for all levels. It isn't rocket science and any of this can be done without all the fancy tools. Ahem, if you are a true DIYer, you will want all the fancy tools, or at least some of them!

SIZE

Not all doors are created equal so get out the tape measure (not the one from your sewing basket, get a real one), and measure the following:

Height: 80" or 'six-eight' (6 foot 8 inches) is a standard size door that most all of us have in our homes. This can vary but if it does, it's usually 79" and change. If you have an older home they can really vary in which case you'll probably need to chop a few inches off of a SOLID core door.

Width: Generally speaking doors come in widths from 12" up to 48" but chances are good you're working within the 18", 24", 28", 30", 32" and 36". Here again they may be 1/4" plus smaller, so what we call a 24" door may be 23-3/4" or thereabouts. You do have a tiny bit of wiggle room but not much more than an 1/8th of an inch.

HINGES

Replacing existing slabs with pre mortised doors means you'll need to know the location and radius of your hinges. Most all doors made these days have 3 hinges per 6'8" door. Back in the old days when hollow core doors were created, they only had 2 hinges so if your house is from the old days you'll need to be prepared for this. Measure from the top of the door to the top of the first hinge, the second hinge and so on. It's a good idea to draw a little diagram as it will help once you start looking for your doors. The radius is the shape of the hinge 5/8" is rounded, 1/4" is sort of rounded and square is square and really old, you won't find any doors with a square mortise.

SWING

The swing means the way the door swings in the jamb-into the room or out in the hallway for example. By and large doors swing into a room and out if it's a closet or boiler room/utility/laundry room. The butt trick is the fail safe way to know the swing of your doors. The butt trick is simple: The hinges have 'pins'- that's the little part of the hinge that sticks out and to perform the butt trick, you'll need to be on the hinge pin side of the door (in the room if it swings in, out in the 'hallway' if it swings out). Close the door, put your butt up against the door and whichever hand hits the hinge pins is the SWING of the door. So if your right hand touches the pins it's a right swing door. Easy-peasy.

These instructions apply to 6'8" doors but the same theory can be applied to 7' or 8' doors though there will be 4 hinges rather than 3.

This concludes DOORS 101, now get on it!