

HOW-TO TIPS

Your new door might be the first of many updates to the front of your home. With a little care and attention to your entryway and its surrounding area, you can transform your home from simply attractive to absolutely spectacular with our helpful tips.



Color or natural beauty?

Any door you choose can be painted or stained to express your own unique personality. Talk with your entry-door professional about what shades will work best for your home, and take into account such factors as sun exposure. "Some love the look of ultradark colors, but if the home receives an abundance of sunshine, this color choice may not be the best because it absorbs heat and can fade quickly," says Lisa Keller, manager of operations with Empire Doors, Windows, and More, Inc. in Southfield.



Safe and sound.

For peace of mind, consider a security storm door. Made of heavy-duty steel, this door features safety glass and full weather stripping to keep out wind, snow and rain, and can be fitted with a deadbolt locking system like the one on your entry door. "For added security, install Armor Shield, a patented locking system found exclusively at Empire Doors, Windows, and More, Inc., which provides the ultimate protection against forced entry," Keller says. Also consider interior or exterior mount window bars, providing safety and security for the home.

Factory or custom made?

Drawn to a custom entry door but worried about a hefty price tag? "You might be surprised by how affordable a custom-built door can be, especially when you consider all the services your door professional can provide. From choosing the proper door, to measuring accurately, to providing professional installation and guaranteeing their work, in the long run, a full-service professional such as Empire Doors, Windows, and More, Inc. is a very smart choice," Keller says.

HOW-TO

Choose the Perfect Entry Door

Your home's front door is your gateway to the outside world. Over its threshold you will welcome family and friends and treasured guests for as long as you own your home, so your entry door should stand as a source of pride, offer safety and security, provide energy efficiency, and create a good first impression, too.

Your door should be practical, yes, but who says it can't be beautiful at the same time? "Your home's doors protect your family and your belongings from the elements season after season. But no door lasts forever, so when it comes time to choose a replacement, consult with a professional who specializes in doors. There are many options available, and you want to make the choice that's right for you and for your home," says Lisa Keller, manager of operations at Empire Doors, Windows, and More, Inc. in Southfield. "More than just a finishing touch for the front of your home, your door is a focal point that, when chosen properly, can be simply unforgettable."

Brand New, Through and Through

What exactly will your new door project entail? It's important to think beyond just the door to the work that will need to be done on the frame and the jambs. Regardless of the condition of the structure, you will benefit from replacing the whole system completely, according to Keller. The result will be a longer lasting, more efficient door system, which, in the long run, will increase the value of your home.



A Green Choice

A new door can save money by providing an energy-efficient seal between your interior and the outside world, Keller says. "Regardless of material choice, most modern doors, when professionally installed, are designed to be energy efficient, which can save money on heating and cooling bills, making a new door a really smart investment," she says. "An important goal for your new door project is an energy smart solution that you won't have to replace for a long, long time."

Is your home ready for a new entry door?

Perhaps your side or back door could use an upgrade to enhance beauty and/or security. A new door still is a great investment and can pay for itself by decreasing energy costs and increasing your home's value, according to Remodeling Magazine. Follow our easy How-To steps for choosing your next entry door and enjoy energy efficiency, beauty and security, all right on your own front doorstep.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Does your entry door provide security against break-ins? Many believe that a reliable deadbolt system is all that is needed to ward off would-be intruders. The security of an entry door extends beyond the door material and locking system to aspects of the construction you might not consider. "The door jamb system is a behind-the-scenes aspect of the overall door installation but one that is really important to the integrity of the door," says Lisa Keller, manager of operations with Empire Doors, Windows, and More, Inc. in Southfield. "Your door jambs should match your door in quality and integrity. Look for a hardwood jamb system that is warp-resistant, strong, secure and durable, as opposed to a softwood pine finger-jointed jamb system widely used by many manufacturers." Or consider a supersecure steel frame that will fit over your existing frame and jamb system to provide truly cost effective security to your door. "A steel frame provides protection against break-ins, unlike other types of jamb systems," Keller says. Steel or hardwood, your jamb and frame system are strong allies in your home security arsenal, Keller says.

FIVE SELECTION STEPS

1 Consider overall look. Is your home ultramodern, a century old, or somewhere in between? "A new entry door can really update your look or preserve the classic feel of your home, so you will want to start with the overall picture in mind," Keller says. Browse home magazines for inspiration, make sketches, observe the way the sunlight affects the entrance of your home during various times of the day. All of these factors can help you more effectively determine the best choice for your new door.

2 Plan your new door with other entry elements in mind. Is there a porch or overhang that might impact the installation? How will the cover or overhang affect the sunlight that filters into your entryway? "Your door professional will be able to help you predict how these

elements might affect your choice of door or the installation project as a whole, both aesthetically and functionally," Keller says.

3 Learn about the three main types of door materials. Economical and sturdy, steel is a popular choice for replacement entry doors. "A steel door can be painted to suit your mood and is energy efficient, too," Keller says. "Steel is a great, cost-effective, secure choice for a new door." Fiberglass is another major player that is low maintenance and requires little attention once it is installed, according to Keller. Fiberglass can be either painted or stained in a wide variety of shades or color to suit your tastes. Finally, nothing can replace the classic, high-end look of real wood for your entry door. Custom built with matching trim, a wood door can be a real curb-

appeal enhancer. "Maintenance and upkeep may drive your decision, so talk with your entry door professional to learn as much as you can about your choices. Our knowledgeable sales professionals are committed to helping customers every step of the way," Keller says.

4 Consider lighting. A dark foyer or vestibule can really benefit from natural sunlight, so consider the decorative and functional aspects of glass, either in your entry door, or in sidelights. "Some homeowners are more concerned with privacy while others love the transparency and natural lighting that the glass provides," Keller says. "Do you have a beautiful view from your front porch? Why not bring that view inside by choosing the proper glass for your door? If you desire privacy, you can choose obscured

glass that allows in light but not unwanted eyes." Look for glass that is insulated and thick enough to provide energy efficiency. "All the glass we use in our doors is energy-efficient thermopane glass," Keller says.

5 Plan and budget carefully. There are many variables to consider here. If you really desire a trouble-free door installation, consult with a company that provides a full service, from initial consultation to measurements to selection and installation, with no additional "extra costs." Ask whether the company will haul away your old door and provide a full cleanup service when all the work is done. "Some companies will charge for initial measurements and to haul away, so make sure you ask about this important step when you are choosing a door professional," Keller says.

For information about this feature, contact your Detroit Media Partnership® account executive, or call Matthew Fasang at 313.222.2456.

EMPIRE

Doors, Windows & More

Is Your Home Design Center

24130 Telegraph Rd.,
Southfield 248-353-2200

www.empiredoors.com

ALL AVAILABLE DOORS

\$199 starting at

FREE Paint or Stain

- Wood Door Units
- Steel Entry & Security Storm Doors
- Fiberglass Door Units

Winter Blast SALE!!

20% Off INSTALLED DOORS

Offer Expires 1/31/12

*Some restrictions apply. See store for details.