



FRANKLIN
WINDOW & DOOR

ESSENTIAL
ENTRY
DOOR
BUYERS
GUIDE:
THE
LOOK





A WELCOME FROM FRANKLIN WINDOW & DOOR

VALUE. DURABILITY. PERFORMANCE. ELEGANCE.

When you are searching for the right exterior doors for your home, all these factors matter, because your home matters. Your comfort matters. Your budget matters. Your peace of mind matters. While your selection may be based on practicality, you also want your house to feel like home.

The key to unlocking the right choice is education. This buyer's guide will take you through the ins and outs of entry doors — so you'll thank yourself for a smart decision each time you go in and out of your home! We will go in depth on the most important topics to consider before purchasing new exterior doors.

There are certainly a lot of decisions to make! But it is worth taking the time to look at all the factors involved in purchasing and installing your exterior doors. The right choice boosts curb appeal, provides functional benefits, and enhances convenience, savings, and most importantly, your enjoyment of your home.

At Franklin Window & Door we are here to help you through every step of the purchasing process and create provide you a hassle-free experience. We will treat your entry door project as if it were for our own home.

Scott E. Brown *Cori E. Brown*

OWNERS OF FRANKLIN WINDOW & DOOR



THE ESSENTIAL BUYERS GUIDE FOR ENTRY DOORS



THERMA-TRU



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EMTEK | WEATHER SHEILD | JELD-WEN | MARVIN | OIKOS | PROVIA | THERMA-TRU



EXPLORING DOOR STYLES



Whether you are launching into a new build or upgrading the look of your home, choosing an attractive, high performing front door is a critical decision. It's also a fun, creative, and exciting one, too! Your entry door is one of the first elements people notice when they walk up to your house. It welcomes them into your home and speaks volumes. Learning about various door styles ensures you'll love what it has to say!



THERMA-TRU



MODERN FARMHOUSE

Looking for farm-fresh flavor? Modern farmhouse exterior doors offer more than a heaping portion of wholesome, hearty style and quality.

Options vary from rustic double doors with iron strap hinges, tall escutcheons backing the doorknobs, and a barn-like aesthetic to more simple panels with large panes of glass separated by slim but solid wood mullions. These doors offer an excellent way to bring a breath of fresh air to your home.

TRADITIONAL

If you have a standard sized entryway, then the possibilities are endless! You can choose from wood, wood clad, fiberglass, and steel with the options for glass inserts, sidelights, and transoms. Premier manufacturers offer a range of choices, from natural grain to eclectic color palettes.

While “traditional” implies a classic style, you can also choose more modern and contemporary doors to complement both your exterior and interior decor. The door is literally wide open in terms of finding the right style and fit for your home.



THERMA-TRU

PIVOT DOORS

Want to make a bold statement? Pivot doors offer an unconventional, contemporary - and simply gorgeous - solution. These doors rotate on a pivot box (floor) and jam (top) rather than on side hinges as is typical. Not only does this introduce a sleek aesthetic, pivot models are ideal for large entryways (e.g. 9' x 13').

They feature high-performance hardware for seamless operation even in wider and taller doorways. You can even opt for double pivots for door panels that seem almost independent of the frame.

Though a high-end option that may cost twice as much, there is no denying the luxury and "wow" factor pivot doors add to your modern home.

OIKOS



CRAFTSMAN

From ultra-modern to an ageless classic, a Craftsman door delivers a traditional feel straight from the Arts and Crafts Movement (1880-1920). They work best with Craftsman or Craftsman-inspired architecture, which allow their simple, natural charm to shine through fully.

These doors are crafted from hardwood, particularly oak, cherry, and mahogany, and may be stained or painted. Today, though, you have the option of selecting reproductions made from composite wood or steel for greater durability and protection from the elements.

Craftsman doors usually have glass panes in the top third portion of the door: they can be one pane or small ones separated by wood trim. You can also choose models with sidelights and/or a transom. This adds another simple, yet elegant, touch to these sturdy stalwarts.



OVERSIZED

Standard exterior doors are 30, 32, or 36 inches wide with a height of 80 inches. Depending, however, on the size of your home and entryway, a larger door is necessary to complete the aesthetic. A standard door may feel more like the entry to a hobbit hole!

Oversized doors present some challenges: there is a greater chance of warping and malfunctioning due to the size. Fortunately, though, today's top manufacturers create durable and long-lasting solutions with your choice of different material options.

As mentioned, pivot doors are excellent for non-standard sized entryways, but you can also opt for a more traditional look with oversized single or double-panel models (and multiple-pane options for glass doors).

As you'd expect, the cost for oversized doors is higher simply because of their size. The addition of "extras" like glass inserts, sidelights, and transoms will also increase the price. You will need to custom order a door that is the best fit for your home. We can help make that process as seamless as possible so you can enjoy the experience, as well as the functionality and beauty of your door for years to come.

DOUBLE DOORS

If you have a larger opening or grand entryway, you need a door that will make a statement. Better yet, why not have two doors? Double doors feature two vertical panels that meet in the middle when closed. You can opt to have one door fixed or to have both doors fully operational.

Double doors can be crafted from the same materials as standard doors, including wood, clad wood, steel, and fiberglass. They can also feature glass inserts and other decorative touches.

Another name for Double Doors is French Doors. Elegant and refined, they enable you to take maximum advantage of natural light and transform even simple rooms into stunning showpieces. Usually a pair of panels (or sometimes more), they feature glass panes that extend for most of the length.

Their versatility allows you to customize your entryways: they can open inwards or outwards and from left or right. As mentioned, with french doors one panel is the primary functioning panel while the secondary panel can be opened when needed for instances like moving in large pieces of furniture.

EMTEK





EXPLORING ENTRY DOOR MATERIALS



THERMA-TRU

A front door does much more than add style to your home — though this is certainly valuable in and of itself! When you choose the right exterior doors, they increase energy efficiency and security as well. Since they play such a critical role in the functionality and aesthetics of your home, it's important to choose wisely! So, let's talk materials.



STEEL

Steel is a solid and popular option. It accounts for about half of the overall exterior door market. The price is one of the top reasons. But there are others! Like fiberglass, steel delivers exceptional performance when it comes to energy efficiency and security.

It is also very low maintenance; and because it resists cracking and warping, you can enjoy your investment for years to come. However, dents can be difficult to fix, and if you don't take care of scratches promptly, rust can begin to creep up and spread.

When you choose steel, you can maximize your budget. But be sure to treat scratches as soon as possible so you don't risk the integrity — and appearance — of your door. You also want to look for a lower gauge steel: a smaller gauge number equates to more steel.

Now, how about appearance? If you're not into the industrial chic look, are you out of luck when it comes to steel exterior doors? Not today! Manufacturers like Provia offer woodgrain texture and 5-step stain finishing options so you can emulate the look of natural wood.





JELD-WEN

WOOD

Don't get the impression we're picking on wood! This material has been an enduring favorite for centuries. It's solid, it's warm, it's gorgeous. There's a reason why other materials seek to emulate wood. The look and feel are the epitome of welcoming. Wood can also be a good insulator against the elements if it has a solid engineered wood core.

But, as mentioned, wood contracts and swells with the weather, and this can lead to warping, rotting, and other damage. Your door may not close properly, or you may have to fight with it to open. Wood doors are also among the most expensive, especially if you opt for premium species like mahogany.

If you love wood, maintenance is essential, so you avoid issues with performance and appearance. Make sure to seal it before or immediately after installation to inhibit the absorption of moisture. It is also advised that you reseal your door every few years. You'll also want to touch up your stain or paint every few years to keep it looking its best. Sagging may be an issue as some of these doors are remarkably heavy: routine maintenance and updates to your frame and hardware are a must.

For all that work, however, you enjoy a gorgeous entry door that is stained or painted to suit your tastes. Many people prefer a natural stain to allow the beautiful grains of the wood to shine through.

Wood is easily customizable - a perk for those with non-standard sized doors and those who want a particular look (e.g. by installing glass inserts). We love wood; but make sure you're ready to commit to maintenance and that you are prepared to pay more in terms of initial costs.





CLAD WOOD

Clad wood doors offer a solution for those who love the look of natural wood but don't want to worry about the upkeep of a natural wood. These doors are constructed of wood, which remains visible on the inside of your home. The external-facing part of the door is covered with an aluminum clad shell to protect it from the elements. This gives you the durability you need and greatly reduces maintenance. It also provides you with endless design options.

From transoms to arches to extra-large sidelights, you can truly create the door you want. It generally features full lite glass (one double or triple insulated glass pane) or lower panel and you can opt for energy efficient double pane Low E and Argon glass, privacy glass, or decorative glass.

Wood selection expands your options further. Pine is typically standard, but you can upgrade to mahogany, cherry, oak, or fir.

When it comes to the aluminum, you can often choose between extruded aluminum (about as thick as a quarter) or roll form aluminum (about as thick as a soda can). Extruded aluminum will cost more upfront, but you'll enjoy greater longevity and durability.

Wood clad doors, however, are only available from companies (like Marvin) that manufacture clad windows. They are made-to-order, so you will likely have a longer lead-time when ordering. Expect to wait four to six weeks or more, depending on the complexity of your needs.

FIBERGLASS

In the past decade, fiberglass doors have undergone a revolution. Once similar in appearance to a fiberglass tub (nothing says “Welcome to my home,” like a bathtub!), top manufacturers can now replicate the look of wood.

Therma-Tru, for example, utilizes technology known as Accugrain to duplicate the grain of oak or mahogany. The benefits are twofold here: you achieve the look you want at about half the cost of real wood, and you avoid some troublesome issues, such as warping and twisting.

Wood is vulnerable to the elements: in humid weather, it swells. In cold weather, it contracts. Fiberglass provides the warmth and elegance of wood without these complications. Even better, it requires virtually no maintenance. Unlike steel, for example, it is impervious to rust, and it helps insulate your home when extreme temperatures hit.

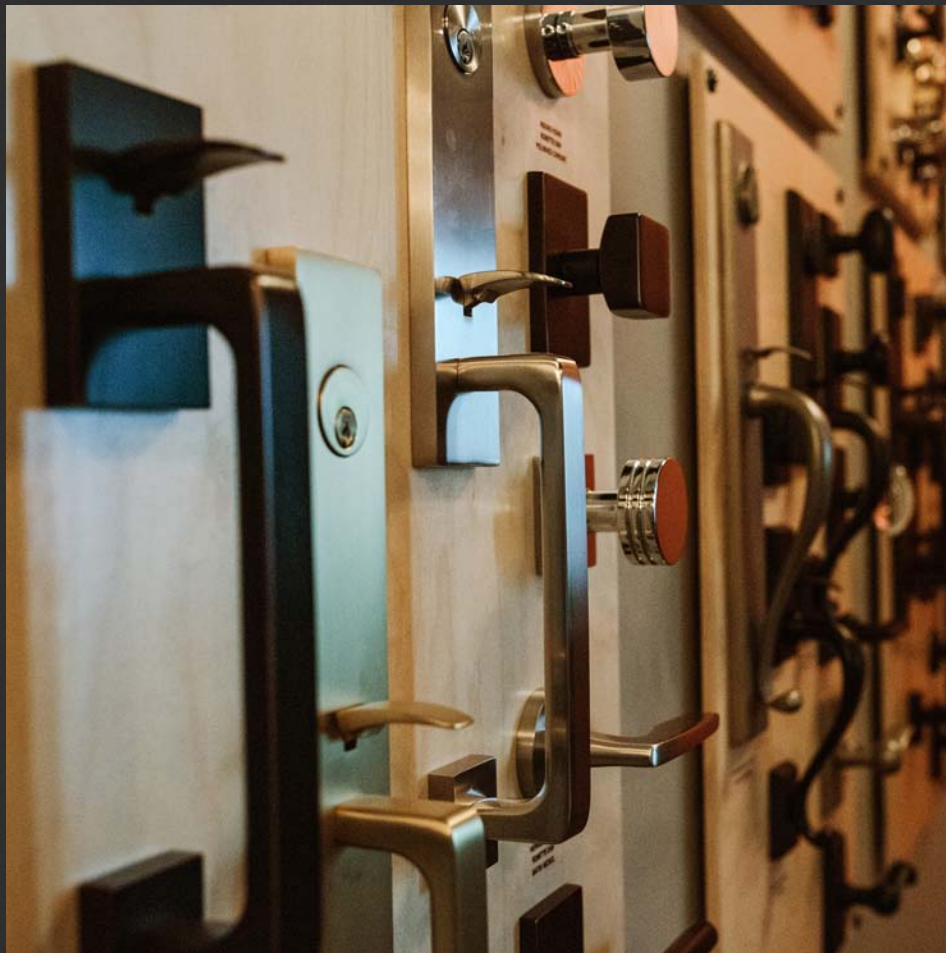
A potential drawback is that you will pay more for high end fiberglass doors. While we’re starting to see some models at the entry level, the cost for quality doors is higher. If you opt for a fiberglass door that is not treated to mimic the look of wood, you can cut your costs.

Remember, though, with fiberglass doors you’ll see a return on your investment in terms of value, durability, performance, security — and style!





CHOOSING YOUR DOOR JEWELRY: A GUIDE TO EXTERIOR DOOR HARDWARE



You've taken your measurements. You've visited the Franklin Window and Door showroom and consulted with one of our experts. You've selected your door. Ah... what a feeling of accomplishment. Your project is well under way! But wait... don't forget the door hardware. Most people consider this an afterthought, but your "door jewelry" is important when it comes to the form and function of your exterior door.

The job of door hardware is simple: it allows you to open, close, and lock your doors. Simple, but essential! Beyond the practicality, though, it also empowers you to make a visual impact. If you have a lovely modern home, for example, hardware like the contemporary example pictured above, is a perfect complement.

You also have the opportunity to personalize your door, putting your own unique stamp on your home. It may be a relatively small detail, but it's the many little details that come together to enhance aesthetics, performance, comfort, and convenience.

To choose the right door hardware, take a little time to get to know your options:

GRIP ENTRANCE SETS.

These sets feature a back plate with deadbolt and grip entrance on the exterior side. On the interior side, there is a back plate with a knob, lever, or thumb turn.

MULTI-POINT LOCKING HARDWARE.

This hardware locks in different locations on the door (usually center, top, and close to the bottom) to add security. If you have a tall door (i.e. over 8 feet), multi-point locking hardware also prevents warping.

SMART LOCKS.

If you don't want to carry a key or want to provide access to trusted people (e.g. a neighbor who's going to pop in and water your plants), smart locks are a great option. You can use biometrics, codes, or security tokens. You can even integrate the lock with your alarm system.

METALS AND FINISHES.

As with regular jewelry, door jewelry comes in a variety of metals. Most common are brass, bronze, stainless steel, and wrought iron. There is also an array of finishes. With brass, for example, popular options are oil rubbed, bright, antique, and satin nickel.

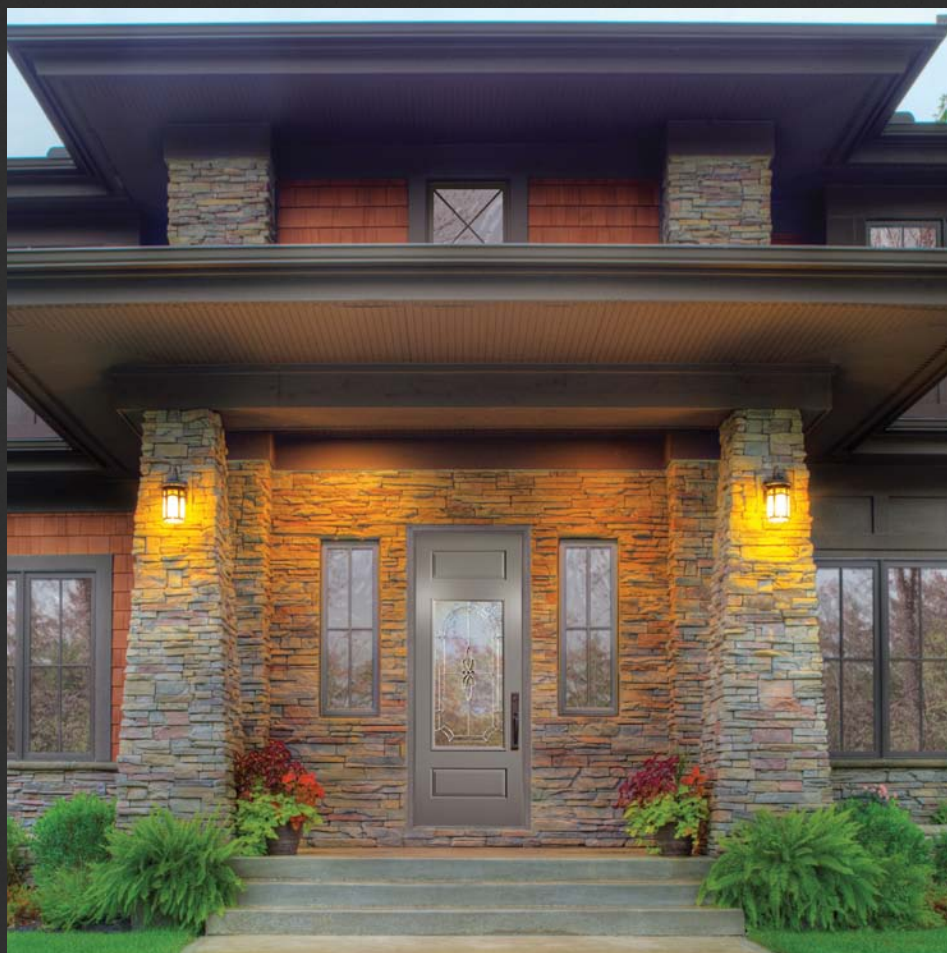
APPEARANCE.

From Victorian and Tuscan style to contemporary and historical, you can find the right fit for your exterior door and your home.





FEATURES TO ENHANCE YOUR ENTRY DOORS



THERMA-TRU

Some of the most impactful decisions you will make for your home are the features of your entry doors. These doors not only welcome guests and create a beautiful aesthetic, they can also give you security and peace of mind.

The best exterior door manufacturers offer a wide array of design options and additional exterior door features from which to choose. Here are a few options that will add style and value to your home.

GLASS INSERTS

Exterior doors can be simple panel models, or they can be outfitted with beautiful glass insets, elegant muntins (this is the wood or metal that separates panes of glass), or removable grills.

We love the elegance of glass inserts; they certainly help boost your curb appeal, and you'll love the effect from inside your home as well. Typically, these inserts feature one decorative panel, protected by two pieces of tempered or impact-resistant glass.

You can also opt for sidelights (typically narrow windows that flank one or both sides of the door) and/or transoms (horizontal windows positioned above the door).

Homeowners usually have two major concerns when it comes to glass inserts: security and energy-efficiency.

Regular glass can lower efficiency. However, the panels of tempered or impact-resistant glass in a door's insert create an insulated airspace, which help to keep the elements out and your heat and conditioned air in. In terms of security, impact-resistant glass is just that: resistant to impact. It would take considerable time and effort to break in, and burglars usually look for easier targets.



THERMA-TRU

SMART FEATURES

Exterior doors can also make your home smarter! With smart locks, for example, you can take advantage of PIN codes, security tokens, biometrics, multiple access solutions, automatic locking, and alarm integration.

Leading manufacturers also offer doors that integrate with your smartphone/smart home system. Marvin, for example, gives users of its gorgeous Multi-Slide door the opportunity to install an automatic remote control or wall switch. They can operate the door with the touch of a button.

You have a wide variety of features and options available to accentuate the design and functionality of your doors. Choosing the right features will ensure your enjoyment and peace-of-mind for years to come.

ADJUSTABLE THRESHOLDS

This feature allows you to keep your exterior door weather-tight over the years. You can adjust the threshold, so it fits snugly against the door to keep out drafts, rain, and snow. It should be just loose enough to allow you to open and close the door without wearing down your weatherstripping.



PROVIA

ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Air leakage from doors can be as high as 11%, and a miniscule $\frac{1}{8}$ inch gap under your exterior door lets in as much cold air as a 2.4-inch hole in your wall. Brrr... During a midwest winters, that's a big problem!

Fortunately, top manufacturers integrate energy efficiency into their exterior doors. The materials themselves can help fight the elements and keep your indoor temperature stable. Many also offer features like double-paned tempered glass with low-e coating, interior foam cores that create an insulating barrier, weatherstripping, and more. Eighty-percent of those offered by Therma-Tru, are ENERGY STAR rated.

