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GENERAL EXTERIOR DOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Building code requirements can vary significantly depending on your specific location. These instructions may not encompass all local regulations. It is the installer's responsibility to ensure that the installation fully complies with all applicable local building codes.

PREPARE THE ROUGH OPENING

Begin by checking the rough opening. It should be square, level, and no less than 1/2" wider and higher than the outside frame dimensions of the frame to be installed. The bottom of the rough opening must be level and cannot have a sag or crown. If necessary, the bottom of the rough opening must be modified to meet this specification prior to the installation of the door. Modify the bottom of the rough opening by planing/grinding the subfloor until it meets the above specifications.

If size adjustment is needed, block the rough opening on both the sides and the top. Blocking must be flush with the exterior sheathing. Double studs should be used at all the openings. Jamb studs should fully extend from the floor to the header. The header should be supported on the jamb studs and be designed to ensure that no load is transmitted to the door unit. The header and jamb studs should also provide for adequate anchorage of the prehung unit.

If using a Sill Pan and Flashing Tape, install following the instructions provided with these items in conjunction with building code requirements.

PLACE FRAME IN THE OPENING AND TEMPORARILY FASTEN

Check the unit for any signs of damage. If damage is noted, please notify your distributor before installation.

Place a liberal non-broken bead of elastomeric or polyurethane caulking around the exterior face of the rough opening in a manner that will seal the brickmould, builders paper and exterior face of the rough opening against water infiltration.

For installation without a Sill Pan: Place several liberal non-broken beads of elastomeric or polyurethane caulking to the subfloor making sure that each completely bridges the gap between jamb studs. The beads should be placed so that contact at both the foot and the toe of the door sill is made. Be extremely careful as this is the primary seal at the floor-to-sill interface and any voids in this interface will allow water and air infiltration.

Note: if installing with a Sill Pan, do not caulk between the sill and sill pan; run a bead of caulk along the lower interior edge of the sill pan only.

Place the frame into the rough opening and tie the builders paper into the home's exterior wrap in a manner that will protect the opening against water infiltration.

Temporarily secure hinge side first, making sure that the hinge side stays plumb on face and edge and that the clearance between the door and jamb is even. Shim to keep the jamb at 90 degrees to the door. Shims are to be placed at each hinge location.

ADJUST FRAME, SHIM, AND PERMANENTLY FASTEN

Shim the frame to match the door to ensure a smooth, even, and reliable fit. From the weather-strip side of the door, check door-to-jamb clearances and door-to-weatherstrip contact.

Ensure all clearances between door-and-jamb are even (IE: Door swings freely without contacting the jamb) and the door contacts the weatherstrip uniformly (IE: Top and bottom corner of the door do not protrude from the frame). Since few doors are perfectly straight and up to 1/4-inch tolerance is allowable, the frame must be adjusted when shimming the side jambs by pushing in or out to achieve even clearances and uniform weatherstrip contact; see: *Shim Instructions for Fitting Irregularities*

Shim at three locations on the lock side: one at the lock location, and opposite the top & bottom hinges.

Please note: when shimming, use two nails per shim and do not drive finish nails in all the way until the door hangs properly and all gaps are equal.

Finish immediately after installation.

Place insulation loosely in the spaces between the jambs and the studs. The insulation should not exert pressure on the jambs. B.C. Door does not recommend the use of expandable foam insulators.

Apply a high-quality exterior caulk around the exterior casing to seal the unit to the siding, stucco or bricks.

Install a drip cap or head flashing above the head jamb brickmould.

COMMON INSTALLATION ERRORS

1. The rough opening for the prehung door has been made too small, making it impossible to get enough adjustment for proper fit.
2. Shimming the hinge jamb from one side only instead of both, thus not keeping the jamb at 90 degrees to the door will create a hinge binding problem. When this happens, the door will always want to spring back when pushed closed.
3. Exterior prehung doors with exterior brickmould are sometimes installed by nailing to studs directly through the brickmold, using no shims at all. This is fairly common in new house construction where the framer is responsible for installing the exterior doors and sometimes doesn't spend the time to install properly.
4. Not checking the clearances (IE: gap) between the door-and-jamb when shimming. This will cause the door to hit the frame on the side, top, and/or bottom when closing, or protrude from the frame at the top or bottom corner.
5. Setting the frame permanent with a temporary door.