

# Understanding the VBBL Performance Path: How Builders and Homeowners Can Use Multiple Wood Exterior Doors While Staying Energy-Efficient and Code Compliant

As a door manufacturer committed to balancing craftsmanship with modern building-code requirements, we regularly help builders and homeowners navigate Vancouver's rigorous energy standards. One of the most common questions we hear is:

**"Can I use more than one wood door on my home and still meet VBBL energy-efficiency requirements?"**

The answer is *yes*—and it's thanks to the Vancouver Building By-law's **Performance Path for compliance**, a pathway that allows projects to use multiple wood doors while still achieving overall energy compliance.

Below, we explain what the Performance Path is, why it exists, and how it can be used confidently and correctly.

## What Is the VBBL Performance Path?

The VBBL includes an energy-performance compliance pathway that acknowledges the complexity of modern home design. Instead of requiring every individual exterior component to meet a strict prescriptive value, the Performance Path allows a builder to demonstrate:

**The home as a whole meets energy targets, even if certain components — such as wood doors — have lower insulation values.**

In simple terms:

**You can use multiple wood exterior doors as long as the building's overall energy performance compensates for them.**

This is typically achieved through:

- Energy modelling
- Higher-performance windows
- Better insulation elsewhere in the envelope
- Efficient mechanical systems
- Improved airtightness

## Why the Performance Path Exists

### 1. To Allow Architectural Variety

Many homes — especially those with side entries, rear patios, and custom layouts — require more than a single entry door. The prescriptive path can severely restrict these designs. The performance path ensures creativity isn't lost in the pursuit of efficiency.

### 2. To Recognize That Energy Performance Is Holistic

A home's total energy consumption depends on dozens of factors. Doors represent a very small percentage of total envelope area. Upgrades elsewhere in the envelope often offset multiple wood doors with ease.

### 3. To Support Longevity and Repairability

Wood doors can be refinished, repaired, and maintained for decades — making them a sustainable long-term choice. The performance path to compliance ensures this traditional material remains viable in modern, efficient homes.

The result: far greater design freedom, without compromising energy efficiency.

## What Builders Should Know

### ✓ You're not limited to "only one" wood door

With the performance path to compliance, *multiple* exterior wood doors are possible within a compliant design.

### ✓ Energy modelling is the key

Energy advisors can adjust other envelope components to ensure the home still meets VBBL metrics.

### ✓ Installation quality is still critical

Even with the performance path to compliance, each door must be installed with NAFS compliance and proper integration with building envelope air and water barriers.

### ✓ Custom homes benefit the most

Homes with multiple outdoor living areas — front entry, mudroom, kitchen walkout, rear patio, or suite entry — can maintain design intent without sacrificing compliance.

## What Homeowners Should Know

### ✓ You can use more than one wood door — legally and efficiently

Side doors, patio doors, and backyard entries can all be wood, as long as the overall home meets energy targets.

### ✓ Your home stays energy efficient

Energy advisors ensure your home achieves the required performance level, even with multiple wood doors.

### ✓ Wood doors bring warmth and long-term value

- They're repairable
- They age beautifully
- They add character and curb appeal
- They withstand heavy, frequent use at high-traffic doors

## Why We Support the Performance Path

As a manufacturer, we strongly believe that **materials should serve the needs of both performance and design**. Wood doors have been used for centuries for good reason — they are strong, durable, sustainable, and visually unmatched.

The VBBL performance path for compliance respects that tradition while embracing modern efficiency, allowing builders and homeowners to have the best of both worlds:

**High energy performance + multiple wood doors**  
=  
**fully compliant construction.**

## Key Take-Aways

The VBBL performance path is an essential tool that gives builders and homeowners the freedom to design homes with multiple wood doors — without compromising the city's energy goals. With proper modelling and quality installation, wood doors remain a premium, code-compliant choice for modern projects.

## Alternative Method for VBBL Compliance

As an **alternative to the performance path**, the VBBL allows builders to remain on the **prescriptive method** by using a specific exemption — the primary entrance door exemption — to maintain compliance without resorting to full energy modelling.

This option preserves design flexibility while avoiding the added cost and complexity of a performance-path energy model.

Read our article '[Understanding the VBBL Prescriptive Path and the Primary Entrance Door Energy-Efficiency Exemption](#)' to learn more.

## Our Commitment as a Door Manufacturer

We've built our reputation on delivering doors that balance beauty, durability, and regulatory compliance. The VBBL performance path aligns perfectly with our long-standing belief that a door must do more than simply insulate — it must welcome, protect, and endure.

Whether you're a builder navigating code requirements or a homeowner selecting the front door that will define your home's character, we're here to help you make informed, confident decisions.



Pattern #600 with Pattern #601 Sidelites

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