



Door 101

Buying doors doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need every technical term — start with these basics and we will help with the rest.

1 • INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR?

INTERIOR

Used between rooms inside your home — bedrooms, bathrooms, closets, pantry, laundry, office.

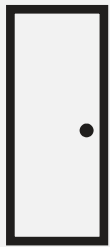
Chosen for privacy, sound control, durability and style.

EXTERIOR

Separates your home from outdoors — front entry, side door, patio openings, and garage-to-house where permitted.

Part of an exterior door system: weather, security, insulation, sill and installation all matter.

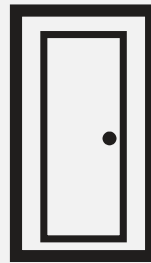
2 • SLAB OR PREHUNG?



SLAB

The door only, with no new frame. Works when you are keeping your existing jamb.

A new slab may still need machining to suit your existing hinges and hardware.



PREHUNG

The door already hung in its jamb, with hinges fitted.

Right for a new opening, new construction, or when the old frame is going too.



Easy way to remember: slab = door. Prehung = door + frame.

What's inside your door?

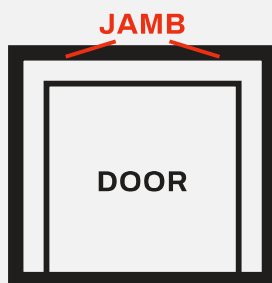
3 • HOLLOW CORE OR SOLID CORE?

	HOLLOW CORE	SOLID CORE
Weight	Lighter	Heavier
Sound control	Less	Better
Feel	Lighter operation	More substantial — a premium, luxurious feel
Cost	Generally lower	Generally higher
Good for	Closets and budget-conscious rooms	Bedrooms, bathrooms, offices — anywhere privacy matters



Choose room by room, not house by house. Solid core for bedrooms and bathrooms, hollow core for closets, is a perfectly normal mix.

4 • WHAT IS A JAMB?



THE FRAME YOUR DOOR HANGS IN

It is essentially the depth of the wall. The jamb has to suit the thickness and construction of your wall — and not every wall in a home is the same.

Not sure? Measure it with our **How to Measure for a Door** guide, or bring photos and measurements to A-1.

Size, swing and hardware

5 • WHAT SIZE IS MY DOOR?

Width × height

Always in that order. **30" × 80"** means 30 inches wide, 80 inches high.

DOOR SIZE IS NOT ALWAYS OPENING SIZE

What you measure depends on whether you are replacing a slab, a prehung unit, or working with a new opening.

→ See A-1's **How to Measure for a Door** guide.

6 • WHICH WAY DOES IT SWING?



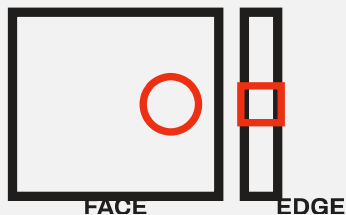
HANDING

Handing tells us which way the door swings and which side the hinges are on.

Don't guess. Terminology can vary by door and system — photograph the whole doorway and the hinges and let us confirm it.

→ See A-1's **Door Swing Guide**.

7 • WHAT IS BORE PREP?



Bore is the hole prepared for your knob or lever. The preparation has to match the hardware being installed, so tell us what you are using.

☐ Knob

☐ Lever

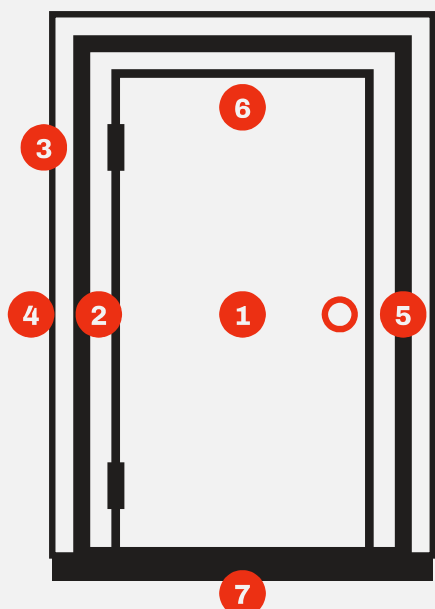
☐ Specialty hardware

☐ Not sure yet

☐ Brand _____

If you are unsure, bring your hardware or its product information to A-1.

Anatomy of a door



1 • Door / slab

The moving door itself.

3 • Hinges

Connect the door to the jamb.

5 • Bore

Where the knob or lever fits.

7 • Sill / threshold

At the bottom of exterior openings.

2 • Jamb

The frame around the door.

4 • Casing

Trim covering the jamb-to-wall joint.

6 • Head jamb

The horizontal jamb across the top.

YOUR DOOR-BUYING CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Interior or exterior | ☐ Slab or prehung |
| ☐ Door size | ☐ Door style |
| ☐ Hollow or solid core | ☐ Jamb requirements |
| ☐ Handing and swing | ☐ Hardware and bore prep |
| ☐ Quantity | |

ALSO BRING

- ☐ Photos of your existing doors and openings
- ☐ Measurements
- ☐ Floor plans, if available
- ☐ Inspiration photos
- ☐ Existing hardware details, if reusing it



Don't know all the answers? Good — you don't have to. Bring your photos, measurements and ideas to A-1 and our team will help you work through the details before you order.