

How to HANG A DOOR



Replacing an existing door is a straight forward job for anyone with basic carpentry skills. If you are hanging a door in a new opening you will need to cut the hinges into the frame as well as the door and chisel out a square hole for the mortise lock.

Measuring the door opening

In modern houses the door frames are standard sizes, the most common being 6' 6" x 2' 6". In very new homes the doors may be wider for wheelchair access. Cupboard doors, bathroom doors and some WC doors might be slightly narrower. It is important that you measure the door opening accurately and check the door you have bought is correct. Once a door has been unwrapped it cannot be exchanged. In older homes the doors could be non standard sizes. Doors can be trimmed slightly to suit by sawing a little bit off the top and bottom and planing a bit off the edge but don't attempt to remove more than 1/2" from the overall dimension or the door will be weakened. When reducing the width of the door an equal amount must be removed from each side of the door.



TOP TIP

Remove the existing door by unscrewing the hinges. If they are heavily painted you will have to gently tap the screwdriver with a hammer to remove the paint from the slots. If you can't undo the screws, try tightening them and then undoing them.



TOOLS REQUIRED

- Craft knife
- Screwdrivers
- Tape measure
- Drill and auger bit
- Pilot drill bit or hinge drill
- Mallet or hammer
- Wood chisel
- Door hinge and lock

 *Masonite*

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STEP 1 Important

Look at the top of the door to find out which side the lock block is located. Some doors have lock blocks on both sides, others have lock blocks on one side. If there is only one lock block, you will see the word lock marked on one side. Try the new door in the frame, the correct way around and the right way up. You will need to wedge the door up at the bottom to clear the floor. Check there is a clearance of roughly 2mm on each side. You should be able to run a 2 pence piece around the door.



STEP 2

If there are existing hinges carefully mark the positions on the door. If you are putting hinges on a new frame or need to change the position of the hinges, mark them so that the top of the upper hinge is 175mm from the top of the door and the bottom of the lower hinge is 250mm from the bottom of the door.

STEP 3

Lay the hinge on the door so the pin lines up with the edge, mark around the hinge with a sharp craft knife. Then remove the hinge and score inside the cutting line with several cross cuts.

STEP 4

Lift the segments out carefully with a sharp chisel. You don't always need to use a hammer if the chisel is sharp. Cut the recess just deep enough to take the hinge so it is flush. If the hinge is laid too deep you may need to pack it out with cardboard.

STEP 5

Drill the hinge holes with a 3mm pilot drill first. You can use a self-locating hinge drill (shown here) for complete accuracy or alternatively an ordinary drill and a steady hand to get the drill in the centre of the hole.



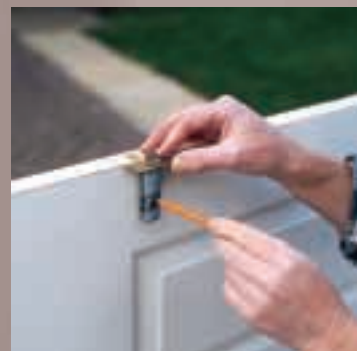
STEP 6

Fix the hinge with one screw supplied in the hinge pack. Try the door in position hanging it with one screw top and bottom so you can mark out the lock position. The lock block is a solid core of timber inside the door to accommodate locks and catches. Check the required lock or catch is positioned within the block.



STEP 7

Modern locks and catches are made to be fitted by drilling a single hole with an auger bit. You can drill this by hand or with an electric drill. Drill the hole very slightly deeper than the lock so you have room to recess the plate.



STEP 8

Mark the door lever spindle position on the side of the door and drill through. Try the door in position before you fit the handles or knobs. Drilling pilot holes with the self locating hinge drill prevents the risk of scratching the brass.

HANDY TIPS

You can use existing hinges providing they aren't worn. Try gently lifting the door when it is open. If you feel the door rise and fall slightly then the hinges are worn and you should fit new ones. The exception to this is rising butt hinges which are made to lift up when the door opens. The idea of these is to clear the carpet or floor covering.



Masonite 6 panel textured door with matching wall panelling

STEP 9

If the door frame is not perfectly straight you may need to gently plane a little off where the door rubs. In modern centrally heated homes internal doors are unlikely to expand once they are conditioned to the home. Timber doors made of lots of different pieces of timber and panels are likely to shrink and will need repainting. Doors made with Masonite door designs such as the one shown here are remarkably stable and come ready primed. You will however, need to paint the timber on all four edges before final fixing. NB: Fire doors must be fitted strictly in accordance with manufacturers instructions. The position of hinges, locks and the type of door frame will be specified by the door manufacturer.