

## HOUSEPLANSDIRECT TECHNICAL GUIDES

# DOOR TYPES EXPLAINED

*A complete guide to residential doors, opening systems, performance and installation*



*Coordinated 3D overview of door types explained for residential design and specification.*

## NINE-PART PUBLICATION EDITION

Entrance doors · Patio systems · Internal doors · Fire doors · Security · Access · Weathering · Installation

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## About this guide

This guide explains the principal door types used in low-rise housing in England. It is intended for clients, designers, specifiers, building-control teams, contractors and installers who need to select and coordinate doors by use, opening method, material, security, accessibility, fire performance and exposure.

**SCOPE** Door selection is project-, opening-, exposure-, security-, access- and product-specific. Use certified doorsets and manufacturer details; coordinate structural openings, thresholds, membranes, ventilation and finishes before ordering.

# Part 1 – Introduction: Understanding Door Types

*Classifying a door by location, use, movement, construction and performance*

A door is more than a moving leaf. The complete doorset includes the leaf, frame, seals, glazing, threshold, ironmongery, locking, fixings and interfaces with the wall or partition. Selection begins with what the opening must do: provide access, resist weather and attack, control fire or smoke, separate rooms, admit light, or connect inside and outside.



Figure 1 – External, internal and glazed door families shown as coordinated doorsets.

## 1.1 Principal classifications

| Classification    | Typical choices                                                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location          | External entrance, garden, garage, internal or protected escape route.  |
| Movement          | Hinged, sliding, folding, pivoting or pocket.                           |
| Leaf construction | Panelled, flush, framed, glazed, composite, timber, steel or aluminium. |
| Performance       | Thermal, acoustic, security, fire, smoke, weather and accessibility.    |
| Configuration     | Single, double, French, sidelights, fanlight, sliding or bifold.        |

## 1.2 Selection principle

- Choose the function and performance before choosing appearance.
- Treat leaf, frame, threshold, seals, hardware and wall junction as one system.