

# Why Contemplate New Exterior Doors

**Making A Statement To Visitors, Saving Energy, Improving Security**  
by **GEORGE M. SCIALDONE**

Manufacturers of quality prime doors have come up to speed quickly in terms of beauty, security and energy efficiency. The flat slab steel doors with screw of snap-on plastic mouldings, happily, are a thing of the past. These often created several problems for the homeowner.

Inferior plastic mouldings heated by the sun would warp. The steel, a good conductor, would bring inside the unwanted temperature differential causing the door to be either too hot or too cold inside even to the point of warm moist air inside condensing and exhibiting frost. Surface mouldings have given way to deeply embossed door surfaces that have all the

beauty of a real wood door without all the problems.

Compare the many shortcomings of a wood door with the benefits of a state-of-the-art insulated door. First, wooden doors average only about an R-3 factor while most insulated doors are an R-15 or more. That is five times the insulation value. Wood, usually pine, is subject to absorbing moisture which consequently causes warping.

Just a little warpage allows the penetration of drafts and insects. Initial fitting of a wood door can be a difficult, time-consuming task, even for a skilled carpenter. Moisture, again, can be an enemy which can lead to mildew or dry rot. On the other hand, an insulated door will not rot or warp, is more resistant to accidental impact or burglary attempts and will come prehung with a jamb thickness compatible with the existing wall thickness and designed to interlock and seal

weathertight.

Door engineers have developed a number of ways to successfully defeat the old problems of conductivity. Patented thermal-break systems have been devised to keep out the heat and cold. Most interior cores are of a polyurethane foam for greater insulation. Glass panels may be two or even three panes of tempered safety glass.

Many designs incorporate real hand-leaded, beveled-edge crystal that are truly works of art. A return to the Victorian style

in home designs has brought back etched glass patterns, only now they are made into insulated glass unity.

For security, most doors are now sold with dead-bolts. Some manufacturers have patented security hinges and reinforced striker plates and bolt strikers; extra long screws go through the wrap-around plate, through the jamb and into the stud creating a much greater resistance to forced entry.

An attractive entrance also adds to the resale value of a home.



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