

These pattern oak French door pairs are fitted with clear safety glass and are 40mm thick. From £252.20. www.directdoors.com



INTERIOR doors

Light, sound and ventilation are regulated by the choice of interior doors.

Thanks to the popular desire for open-plan living, many selfbuilders don't have to think about interior doors in the communal living areas – it's all a free-flowing open space. They are still needed on bedrooms and bathrooms though, regardless of how light and airy – and doorless – the downstairs is. Not only do they prevent noise and draughts and keep in warmth, they can also keep out fire – for a limited time – but special certified fire doors will do the best job on this. They are versatile by their very nature, and admit light and create ventilation when open as well.

Doors can come with or without frames. For frameless doors, it's fairly straightforward to fit a door casing. It's just a matter of fitting a couple of door jambs (vertical sides of the casing) and a head (the top of the casing). The tricky bit is getting the size right. Casings come in standard sizes, but in varying widths to make allowances for different wall thicknesses – make allowances for additional thicknesses for example if you are fitting the casings before the walls are

boarded out. Renovating older properties can be more difficult as standard sizes don't necessarily apply, and special casings – and therefore special doors – may need to be made bespoke.

STYLES

There are four categories of interior door: flush, moulded, panel or fire door, and are thinner than exterior doors. There can be between four and 15 panels, which can be glazed, solid wood or ply. Moulded doors are shaped from wood, fibreboard or plastic, and bonded to a timber frame. Flush doors are the cheapest and are the popular choice in commercial situations, because they are made of a lightweight frame covered with hardboard or plywood. Fire doors are thicker than other interior doors, and are designed to slow the spread of fire. They are compulsory in some areas under the building regs. Although fire doors are not required everywhere, an increasing number of homeowners are choosing to install them throughout the home.

They are required in any door leading to a third storey, but rules have changed and they no longer need to be self-closing, although many of them still are. These doors can be glazed or non-glazed – special fire-rated glass is used – and special fire and smoke seals should be provided with the door frame, as should special door hardware. It will be given a numerical code, relating to how many minutes it can withstand fire, in test conditions (ie FD30 or FD60) and must comply with Part E of the building regs. Without these it's not classified as a fire door, so check that the door is labelled as having been approved and fit for purpose by British Standards. Fire doors are best fitted by a joiner or specialist installer.

To get the best sound insulation without going as far as fire doors, a solid core interior door will act as a good barrier compared with a hollow core.

Keep your home draught-free and quiet, with some stylish options. Read on for some inspiring choices.



Left: Here is a set of verre eglomisé (gilded glass) sliding doors for a private house with an open-plan living space. www.rupertbevan.com
Right: B&Q's Avesta 6 Lite clear glazed internal door is solid timber, sold primed ready for finishing. Price from £99.98. www.diy.com



Left: Fluid, organic shapes are formed by Float Glass Design, used for doors, partitions and artwork. www.floatglasdesign.co.uk
Middle: The Verona oak veneer door is fitted with obscured safety glass. From £194.98. www.directdoors.com
Right: This panelled door has decorative glazing bars and is finished in Oyster White. Prices start at £300. www.hayburn.com



Above: To achieve continuity of shade and finish, this foil-effect veneer door is timber with a man-made veneer face. www.jeld-wen.co.uk
Right: This sliding door features frosted glass which means light can still get through. Price from £1,200. www.sliderobes.com





Left: This bespoke design slides into the walls to allow more space in rooms. From £375/sq m. www.tnesc.co.uk
Right: These Park Lane doors are made of oak and have bevelled toughened safety glass panes. From £306.62. www.directdoors.com

Left: Oregon oak doors from Jeld Wen are available in seven styles including four and six panel. www.jeld-wen.co.uk
Right: Made of Newland pine, these glazed French doors are from Wickes. www.wickes.co.uk



Left: The Denham oak veneer door has four raised panels, and is available in a glazed and fire door version also. www.wickes.co.uk
Middle: Float glass doors can be used as large room dividers as well as single leaf doors. www.floatglassdesign.co.uk
Right: Engineered mahogany with a high gloss French polish is used to create this two-panel double door. From £300 per leaf. www.hayburn.com

Above: Made from new oak, this cottage style door is ideal for older properties and barns. www.priorsrec.co.uk



Left: Vetrolide is a complete track and glass door, perfect for areas with limited space. Price £495. www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk
Right: Made of pine, this glazed door is available as a single or double door. Prices from £119.74. www.directdoors.com

Left: The oak Tivoli door features opaque safety glass, and is supplied unfinished. From £141.75. www.directdoors.com
Right: This 55mm four panel door is in engineered Tulip leaf finished in Oyster White paint. 028 2587 1442, www.hayburn.com