

# 5 TIPS AND TRICKS FOR LOOKING AFTER YOUR DOORS



PREMIER  
WINDOWS

## MAINTENANCE GUIDE

### 1. CLEAN YOUR DOORS REGULARLY

Keep them looking great and lasting longer

- Use warm, soapy water and a soft cloth to clean uPVC, aluminium and timber doors
- Clean both sides of the door along with any nooks and crannies
- Wipe and dry seals regularly to remove dirt and moisture
- Clean glass with a household glass cleaner and dry with newspaper to avoid leaving streaks
- Give the door a gentle dusting to avoid the build-up of dust

#### TOP TIP:

For bifold and patio doors, use a small brush to loosen any debris from their tracks and then run a Hoover over them



### 2. CHECK FOR ANY DRAUGHTS

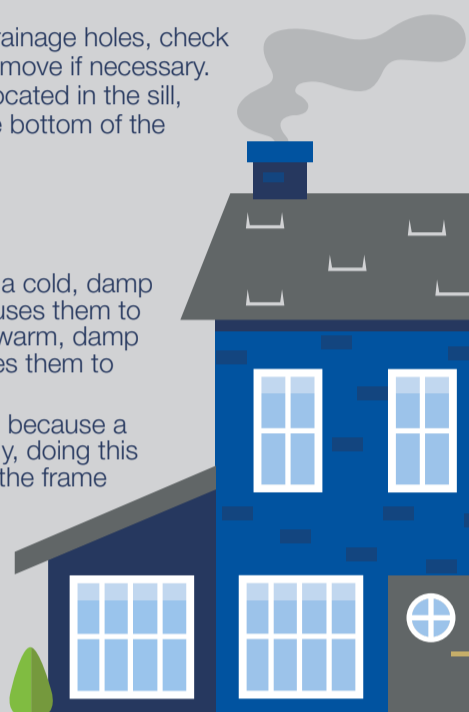
Stay warm and decrease your energy bills

- Gaps can appear when a door has warped over time
- Dropped hinges can prevent a door from closing properly, leading to gaps
- Faulty locks and handles can stop doors from shutting too
- Letterboxes and keyholes can also allow cold air in if they have not been draught-proofed
- If your doors have drainage holes, check for blockages and remove if necessary. Drainage holes are located in the sill, which runs along the bottom of the door

#### TOP TRICK:

Wiping door edges with a cold, damp cloth when it's warm causes them to contract. Wiping with a warm, damp cloth when it's hot causes them to expand.

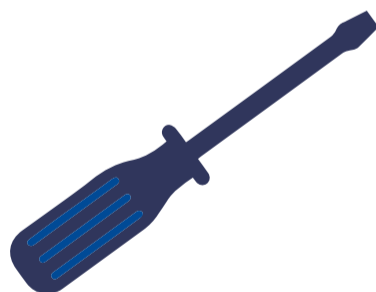
If there are gaps present because a door won't close properly, doing this can help it fit better into the frame



### 3. CHECK THE LOCKS AND HANDLES

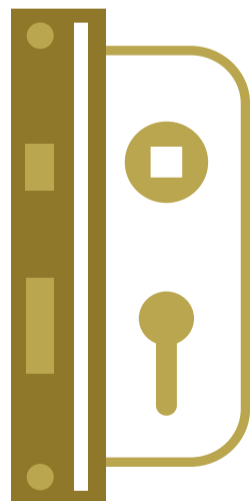
Keep your home secure!

- Operate the door handle to ensure it's not loose. Many modern door handles can be tightened by loosening the set screw on the side with an Allen key, removing the cover plate with a flat head screwdriver, and tightening the screws on each side with a Phillips screwdriver
- If your door hardware is still under guarantee with us, we will replace it for you free of charge
- When using the door handle, keep an eye on the locking mechanism too. Check the locks engage the door properly and do not stick or squeak
- For locks that stick or squeak, lubricate them with WD40 or lithium grease



#### TOP TIP:

Use a wrench and screwdriver to tighten any nuts and bolts. This will help the hardware to last longer



### 4. KEEP AN EYE ON THE GLAZING AND FINISH

Important areas for door longevity

- Look out for discolouration, cracks, chips or peeling paint and give a wooden door a new coat of paint or varnish to deal with these issues
- Glossy paints are popular for wooden doors but a poor paint job is made more obvious with gloss
- Stain and semigloss paints are good alternatives if you do not trust your painting skills
- If your door is growing old and extensively blemished, it might need replacing
- We do not recommend repainting uPVC or aluminium doors as this can void their warranty

#### TOP TRICK:

For glazed doors, check for any moisture between the glass panels. If there is any, the seals have failed and you may need replacement glazing



### 5. INSPECT THE SEALS, FRAMES AND HINGES

Ideally every few months

#### SEALS: The long rubber strips that run along the door edges

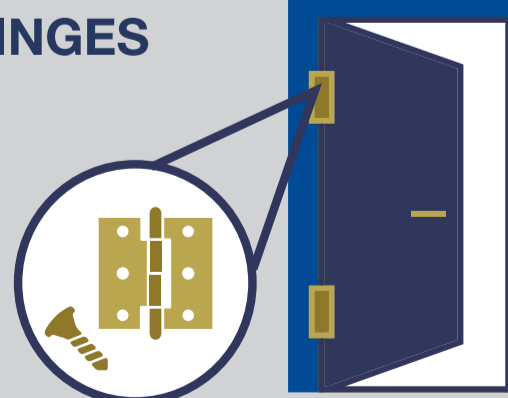
- Open the door and check for cracks, gaps or discolouration in the seals, replacing any damaged ones
- If you want to replace the seals yourself, most weatherstripping can be peeled away by hand, although some is nailed or screwed in. Use a hammer or screwdriver to remove this type of weatherstripping
- There are various replacement options including self-adhesive foam tape, V-shaped weatherstripping, V-shaped vinyl and rubber gaskets
- You could also hire someone to replace them for you

#### FRAMES: This is the framework surrounding the door

- Check the jamb of the door for cracks or signs of warping. These are the vertical posts that sit on either side of the door
- Also check the top of the door frame and the bottom, which is called the sill

#### HINGES: The mechanical bearings that connect the door to the frames

- Ensure the hinges aren't too loose and lubricate any squeaking hinges
- Lithium grease is good for lubricating door hinges and other mechanical parts
- Silicone spray (WD40) is cheaper and easier to apply, but it does leave hinges susceptible to dirt and dust accumulation



#### TOP TIP:

Lubricate rollers, nuts, bolts and any other moving parts to keep your door opening smoothly and lasting longer

For more information on how to look after your doors, get in touch with us.

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