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Project Planning with Ease

A Homeowner's Guide from Milgard Windows & Doors



Questions to Ask Yourself

Patio doors create beautiful entrances to the home and can expand the perceived size of a space. As you begin the exciting journey in transforming your home, ask yourself some key questions to help determine the scope of the project and to better organize your thoughts.

How do I want to live differently in my home?

A renovation project gives you the opportunity to redesign for the better --- and that means you can think beyond your current window and doors layout. To maximize light and ventilation, you can replace windows with a French Door or Moving Glass Wall. Innovative window and door handles make opening and closing easier than ever.

Realistically, how much can I afford?

Money always plays a role in how much we can do. Try to come up with a range of what you're willing to spend that includes an absolute maximum. Remember to give yourself at least 10% extra wiggle room.

How involved do I want to be in the design?

Some people want to be involved in every single choice. Others want their hired professional to explain the options and simply choose. It will be important to let your project manager know how involved you want to be—it will help them determine how they should work with you.



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Do I need this done by a certain time? Or, can I afford to have the work done in the off season?

Everyone tends to want work done on their homes in times of good weather. But often you can have more flexibility and the work done more quickly in off-season times.



Replacement vs. New Construction Patio Door Installation

Your selection of patio door products may vary depending on whether you are completing a new construction or replacement project. New construction patio doors are installed while a brand new home is being built. At this point, the studs are exposed and the doors are attached directly to the frames with the nail fin, which means it is nailed into the framing of the home. Afterwards, sealant is applied to prevent water intrusion.

Replacement patio doors, on the other hand, are installed using a block frame or Z-bar, which does not require access to exposed studs. This means there is less removal of exterior materials such as siding and trim.

In a replacement project, the installer can remove the entire frame of the old patio door or leave in the jambs and cut out the sill. If you are not sure about your options, talk with your project supervisor or get in touch with a local Milgard dealer.



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Working with a Local Dealer

The process of buying and installing patio doors goes more smoothly when you work with professionals. They will help ensure you order the right products, properly sized to fit and operate flawlessly. They also help you order the right styles to match the overall design of your home.

Most Milgard consumers purchase their patio doors from one of 3,000+ Milgard dealer locations. Dealers are generally local business owners invested in their communities and dedicated to providing excellent customer service. Dealers can help walk you through your replacement or new construction project at a more personalized level. They work



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with you to select the best doors for your home's architecture as well as your climate and lifestyle. Many offer installation services or can recommend a professional with whom they worked before.

Preparing Your Home for the Project

You may be living in your home while the project is being done, so you should prepare accordingly. If new patio doors are part of a larger remodel, you will want to know how many days your kitchen, or another room, will be out of commission so that you can plan around it. For instance, you might want to move your appliances elsewhere so you can still make meals for yourself. Or simply plan to eat out.

Think about your daily routine and how it involves the part of the house being worked on. Prepare yourself for a break in that routine for the duration of the project. You might ask the contractor the order the various rooms will be done. If one is a home office you use daily, perhaps you can arrange for it to be done quickly while you're out on errands or working from another room.

Remove all necessities and valuables from wherever the work is being done so you have better access to them. It's a good idea to remove items that could get broken (such as a valuable vase) from the immediate area where patio doors are being replaced. Contractors are used to working around furnishings, but it never hurts to give them more space and take extra precautions.

Make plans to keep pets and children as isolated as possible from the work area. While installers are used to working around people, distractions such as children and pets will only slow the job down and could even prove dangerous. You don't want children and pets running around in rooms where people are carrying doors with large panes of glass.

