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How To Replace A Retrofit Sliding Door

*This may be a 2-person job.
Have a second person that will be able to help carry the door.*

Step #1

- Measure the width from the inside side flange to the opposite inside side flange.
- Measure the height from the bottom of the sill to the top inside flange.
- Subtract ½ inch from each measurement and order your new door.
- Be sure to check which direction the door slides and match that direction with your new door.
- Determine if your new door will require a bottom fin. Wood floor – probably will, concrete floor – probably not.
- Order your door. Have the salesman help determine if your new door has any special installation requirements. Check slide direction and bottom fin.

Step #2

- Remove the sliding door by raising the wheels and removing any stoppers in the top jamb track. Slide the door to the open position and lift the door to allow the bottom of the door to clear the track and pull towards you.
- Remove the stationary door by removing any small screws holding the door to the frame. Slide the door to the center of the opening and lift out pulling the bottom of the door towards you.
- Remove the bottom sill by cutting the corner seams with a reciprocating saw (sawsall). Be sure to fully cut the screws holding the bottom sill to the side jambs.
- Bend the bottom sill up in the center and pull completely out.
- Scrape the concrete or wood sub-floor clean.
- Make sure the 2inch area around the opening on the surface of the exterior wall, for both side jambs and the top jamb are clean and flat. The flanges of the new sliding door frame will be pressed against these surfaces.

Step #3

- Place a level on the floor where the new sill will be and see if the surface is level.
- Place the Jiffy Seal on the floor where the sill will be. Level if necessary by stacking the Jiffy Seal on itself. Leave the backing on the last piece of Jiffy Seal.
- If the sliding door is in the new door frame, remove it.
- Working from the outside, dry fit the new door into the opening, and check side jambs for vertical level.
- Pre-drill holes into the side jambs and the top jamb inside channels for mounting screws.
- ***Do Not Drill Any Holes In The Bottom Sill!***
- Space approximately 16inches apart.
- Dry fit the new door into the opening. Be sure the door fits snug onto the exterior surface.
- Put a level on each side jamb to insure the jamb can be leveled during installation.
- If the fit is good, remove the door.

Step #4

- Remove any old latches from the existing side jambs.
- Remove the backing from the Jiffy Seal.
- Apply Vulkem or a high-quality pure silicone on the Jiffy Seal where the sill will be placed.
- Place the bottom sill of the new door into the opening first. Then slowly push the new door into the opening.
- With a second person holding the new frame in place, install the sliding door into the frame.
- Raise the rollers so the door slides freely and is level.
- Slide the door closed, but stop 1/4inch away from the side jamb.
- Move either the bottom sill or the top header left or right until the space between the sliding door and the side jamb is even at the top and bottom.
- Place wood shims near the predrilled holes and screw 2inch to 3inch deck screws through all of the holes and into the existing frame. Be sure to have a second person gently push the new frame onto the exterior wall surface as the screws are being installed.
- ***Do Not Mount Any Screws In The New Sill!***
- Clean up and Vulkem that may have gotten on the frame or wall.

whew Take a break!

Step #5

- Cut your shims off flush making sure not to cut past the existing frame flange.
- Put expanding foam in the gap between the new frame and the old frame. Do not use too much, it will expand!
- Mount the catch onto the frame if necessary.
- Mount the screen door and latch.
- Place the 1"x2" bates on the sides and top of the existing frame. Pre-drill and use the deck screws to mount the bates.
- Use double stick tape to attach the vinyl corner molding to the bates. You may have to cut one side of the corner molding for a good fit.
- Apply proper color caulking to the seam between the corner molding and door frame.
- Use a good color matching silicone and place a bead on the side and top exterior flange, connecting the flange and exterior wall.
- Clean any glue with appropriate solvents and add up the money you saved installing the door yourself!

If you have any questions, contact us at:

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Note: If the door will be exposed to extremely wet conditions, you may need a sill pan. This pan may be available from the dealer where you order the door. If not, you may be able to have one manufactured at a local metal shop.

You can make a sill pan by first installing 3"x1" L-flashing on the floor, and then placing a ¼" x 3" flashing on top with the ¼" into the inside. Then place 1"x3" corner flashing into each corner. Be generous with the Vulkem or silicone.