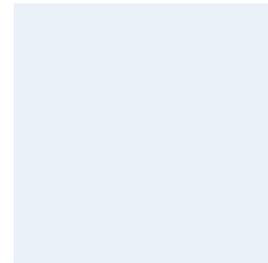
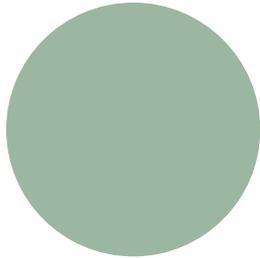


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Door design guide

Evaluate the options for your doors' appearance, from plain to multi-panel, to doors with lights (glass), or special carvings. Review design alternatives and identify your preferred door style.



Door Design Guide

When it comes to door design, exterior or interior, you are limited only by imagination. Here is a look at various options for interior-door design.

The Basics

Typically, your interior doors are paneled or flush. You can have two panels, three panels— all the way up to nine or 10 panels. Doors can be naturally finished wood or painted, hollow core or solid. Flush doors can still have a little decoration, maybe some metal stripping or stenciling. If you are seeking a sleek, contemporary look, your door could be a glossy, acrylic flush door, possibly trimmed with stainless steel.

But with some imagination, you can do much more with your interior doors.

Arched Doors

Begin with arched doors, even over-sized arched doors, such as what you might have in your entry. Such a door adds flair and elegance to your master suite or to a library/study area. And speaking of a library/study area, consider some doors designed as bookshelves that would open from one room into another, more secluded room, containing a pool table or your stash of top-shelf liquor.

Laundry Room

Laundry rooms can be problematic. They can be noisy, so a solid-core or raised-panel door might serve you best. If noise suppression isn't critical, you might go with a glass door, or half glass, which can open up the room but still give some noise suppression. The laundry room might be in a cramped space, so a pocket door might be needed; glass panels still can be used in a pocket door.

Frosted Glass/Clear Glass

Full-panel, glass doors — either frosted or clear — make beautiful dividers between rooms that do not require much sound reduction and privacy, such as from a kitchen to a dining room, or a dining room to a living room. These doors can be hinged or on sliders. For a dramatic door in such a situation, try floor-to-ceiling glass double doors, maybe between dining and living rooms.

Frosted glass panels also work well in bathrooms to divide various areas for privacy. Frosted glass can be used in kitchens, where you might want a stylish glass door for a pantry, but don't want people to get a clear view of the mess behind the door.



The Barn Door

You can buy heavy-duty glides for what might be called barn-door sliders for special-effect doors. These mega-sliders can be standard height or floor-to-ceiling; they can be of wood, (truly representing a barn door), or they can be glass panels. And what better to break the bypass boredom of sliding closet doors than dramatic, floor-to-ceiling glass or acrylic doors on heavy-duty glides.

Hidden Doors

In a kitchen or dining room, where you might have paneled walls, you can create a door that looks like an extension of the wall that closes on a pantry or butler's pantry. Conversely, instead of cabinet doors, you might create full-sized double doors that open in to a china-storage area; they can cover up the dishware and suggest a full-sized room behind the closed doors. Such doors also might close off a small, closet-sized office where you keep a computer and pay the bills.

The list of door possibilities is nearly limitless. If you want to put something behind closed doors, there's a door for you.

