

Fixing a Stuck Door

This playbook describes methods to resolve issues with doors that stick or fail to close correctly. The procedure involves adjusting hinges and, if necessary, sanding the edges of the door.

Step 1: **Assess Problem**

Carefully observe and determine the specific area where the door is sticking. Open and close the door several times to identify where the door rubs against the frame or the floor.

Step 2: **Tighten Hinges**

Use a screwdriver to tighten all hinge screws. If the screws are stripped, replace them with longer or thicker screws that will grip the wood more securely.

Step 3: **Check Alignment**

Examine the gaps between the door and the frame. The gap should be uniform top to bottom. If the door is uneven, it may require hinge adjustments.

Step 4: **Adjust Hinges**

If tightening did not fix the sticking, remove the hinge pins and adjust the hinges. You may need to shim behind the hinges or slightly bend the hinge knuckles to realign the door.

Step 5: **Mark Tight Spots**

Close the door and use a pencil to lightly mark any tight spots where the door sticks after hinge adjustments.

Step 6: **Sand Door Edge**

Remove the door from the frame. Using medium-grit sandpaper, sand down the marked areas where the door sticks. Check the fit frequently to avoid over-sanding.

Step 7: **Finish Door**

Once the door closes smoothly, finish the sanded areas with finer sandpaper, then repaint or revarnish to protect the wood and match the existing finish.

Step 8: **Rehang Door**

Carefully place the door back on its hinges, insert the hinge pins, and test the door several times to ensure it opens and closes without issue.

General Notes

Safety First

Wear safety goggles when sanding or performing other potentially hazardous activities. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated if using paint or varnish.

Proper Tools

Make sure you have the correct tools before you begin. This includes a screwdriver, sandpaper, shims, a pencil, and necessary finishing supplies.

Regular Maintenance

Periodically check all doors in your home for ease of opening and closing. Regular maintenance can prevent many issues related to stuck doors.

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