

Proper Disposal of Old Doors

1. Recycling:

- **Recycling Centers:** Old doors made of metal, fiberglass, or other recyclable materials should be taken to a local recycling center. Many centers accept materials like aluminum, steel, and glass for repurposing. Be sure to follow any guidelines on disassembling or preparing the door for recycling, such as removing hardware or separating materials.
- **Manufacturer's Recycling Program:** Some ENERGY STAR-certified door manufacturers may offer recycling programs. Check the manufacturer's website or contact them directly to inquire about available recycling options.

2. Donating:

- **Habitat for Humanity ReStores:** If your old door is still functional, consider donating it to Habitat for Humanity ReStores. These centers accept building materials, including doors, to support their home-building efforts. For donation instructions, visit Habitat for Humanity's website.
- **Local Charities:** In addition to Habitat for Humanity, some local organizations may accept usable doors for their programs. Contact building material donation centers in your area to inquire.

3. Repurposing:

- **DIY Projects:** If your door is no longer functional but still solid, consider repurposing it for DIY projects. Ideas include transforming old doors into furniture like tables, shelves, or garden trellises. Numerous online resources, such as Pinterest, provide creative ideas for repurposing.

4. Safe Disposal:

- **Proper Waste Disposal:** If recycling or donation isn't an option, ensure your door is disposed of properly. Many landfills have dedicated areas for construction and demolition waste. Check with local waste management services to ensure proper disposal of large items like doors.
- **Lead Paint Considerations:** If your door was painted before 1978, it may contain lead-based paint. Lead paint can be hazardous when removed improperly. Follow guidelines for safe handling and disposal of lead-based materials by referring to the [EPA's Lead Paint webpage](#).

5. Installation Instructions for New Doors:

- **Tools and Hardware Needed:** Ensure you have all necessary tools and hardware for installing your new ENERGY STAR-certified door. These might include a hammer, screws, drill, shims, level, and flashing. Some tools and hardware may be provided by the manufacturer, while others may need to be purchased separately.
- **Diagrams and Descriptions:** The manufacturer may provide diagrams or pictures in the installation instructions, showing the product or similar

models, along with details on installation. Review these carefully for clarity on how to install the door properly.

6. Preparing the Frame for Installation:

- **Removing Old Door:** Follow the manufacturer's general guidance on safely removing the old door and preparing the frame for installation. Be sure to check for any lead paint if the door is older, and follow proper safety procedures for removal. You can find more information on lead paint management at www.epa.gov/lead.
- **Disposal and Recycling Guidance:** Review the installation instructions for specific guidance on the disposal and recycling of the old door, as well as any environmental considerations. Many manufacturers provide general recommendations on how to dispose of old products responsibly.

7. Flashing and Installation Details:

- **Flashing Instructions:** Refer to detailed flashing instructions, which may include diagrams or reference to the flashing manufacturer's specific instructions. Proper flashing prevents water infiltration, which helps maintain the energy efficiency of your new door.
- **Shimming for Proper Installation:** Properly shim the door to ensure it is flush, level, and plumb. This step is critical for proper functionality and energy efficiency. Follow the detailed instructions provided by the manufacturer and consider any helpful diagrams for visual clarity.

8. Sealing and Weatherproofing:

- **Prevent Air and Water Infiltration:** Ensure proper sealing and weatherproofing of the door to prevent air and water infiltration at the product-wall interface. Proper sealing enhances the energy efficiency of the installation. The manufacturer's installation instructions will include recommendations on the type of sealant to use and the proper application techniques.

9. Variations in Installation:

- **Installation Variations:** If your installation involves unique conditions, such as pocket installation, rough opening installation with exterior sheathing intact, or exterior sheathing removed, be sure to follow the specific variations in the installation instructions. These guidelines will help ensure a proper fit and maximize energy efficiency, regardless of installation scenario.

By following these detailed installation and disposal guidelines, you can ensure that your new ENERGY STAR-certified door is installed correctly, your old door is disposed of responsibly, and your home's energy efficiency is optimized.