

How to Install Thresholds

A wooden threshold can be installed in less than an hour.

Whether you've just put on a new addition, or you want to replace a threshold that has been scratched and worn over the years, proper installation is necessary for the aesthetics and safety of your home.

Things You'll Need

- Hammer
- 1 1/2-inch finish nails
- Nail punch
- 1/16 inch drill bit
- Cordless Drill
- Tape Measure
- Coping saw or Miter/Chop saw
- Sand Paper
- Wood Chisel
- Stain, Lacquer or Paint

Instructions

1. Measure your threshold. The threshold serves as a transition point between one room and another. The threshold will fit between the door jambs. Measure the length and the width of your threshold.
2. Select a piece of stock that matches the grain of your floor. If the floor is carpeted, select a piece whose grain appeals to you aesthetically. Cut the piece to the dimensions you've measured for. Use a coping saw and a wood chisel to cut the piece to fit between the door jambs.
3. Using the 1/16-inch drill bit, drill pilot holes for your finish nails. Thresholds are often made of incredibly hard wood, such as oak. Drilling the pilot holes will reduce the chance of splitting your threshold and the aggravation of bending nails.
4. Test fit the threshold. Does it sit flush with the flooring it transitions from? Does it fit beneath the door itself? Use a wood plane to trim the threshold as needed by planing the bottom of the piece. Shim the threshold if it sits too low.
5. Sand your threshold. Begin with 60 grit and progress to at least 120. A palm sander will work as well as a hand block. Stain or lacquer the piece as appropriate.
6. Nail the threshold into place. Hammer the finish nails through the pilot holes into the subfloor. Use a properly sized nail punch to drive the nails even with the top of the threshold.