

## CHOOSE A DOOR THAT FITS YOUR STYLE



## PROJECT KNOW-HOW

Interior doors can update and accent your decor. You can change an existing door if you invest some time and muscle. Installing a pre-hung door is easier and faster than starting from scratch, most of the more labor intensive work is already done. Just take the trim off the existing opening and remove the jambs. Once the jambs are out, fit the new door in with shims and a few finishing nails to complete the job.

### SKILL SCALE

Medium

### REQUIRED SKILLS

General carpentry, using a hammer, measuring, and using a level.

### TIME REQUIRED

Experienced: 45 min. Handy: 1 hr.  
Novice: 2.5 hrs.

### VARIABLES

Estimates assume that the old door trim, door, and door jambs are easily removable. It's important to take the time to shim and level the door accurately.

### MATERIALS

Prehung door, shims, #6 and #8 finishing nails, 2 1/4" screws

### TOOLS

Stiff putty knife, small pry bar, large pry bar or crowbar, level, hammer, nail set

# INSTALLING AN INTERIOR DOOR

## STEP 1



**Remove the existing door.** Start by loosening the trim with a stiff putty knife, then use a pry bar and a block of wood to remove the trim without damaging the wall. The head and side jambs are usually nailed together. It's easier to remove them from the opening at the same time. Pry the side jambs away from the studs. Then pry down the head jamb.

## STEP 2



**Slide the prehung door unit into the rough opening.** Put the door in the opening and slide it until the jamb is flush with the wall. Double check to be sure that the door opens in the desired direction.

## TIME-SAVING TIP

**If you're installing over carpet,** remember to account for the thickness before you hang the door. You may have to trim the bottom in order for the door to swing properly.

## STEP 3



**Shim the jamb plumb to make it level and straight.** The door frame is slightly smaller than the opening it fits to allow for adjustments. Slip shims under the side jamb until the head jamb is level. Then shim between the side jambs and the studs to fill in the spaces between them. On the hinge side, start with the bottom and top of the jamb. Then shim between the hinges and the studs, positioning the shims so that about half the shim is above the hinge. (This will help you later when nailing.) Make sure the jambs are plumb. On the latch side, shim at roughly the same places and at latch level.

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# LEARN HOW

## STEP 4



### Nail the door frame to the studs.

Drive #8 finishing nails through the frame, through the shims, and into the studs. Drive two nails through each shim about an inch from each edge of the jamb, with one about 1/2 inch above the other. Before driving the nails home, open and close the door, and make any necessary adjustments. When you're satisfied with the way it works, drive and set the nails.

## STEP 5



### Nail the trim to the jamb and studs.

Drive #6 finishing nails through the trim and into the studs behind the wall, spacing the nails about 16 inches apart. Trim any exposed shims by scoring them with a knife and then breaking along the line. Cut and install trim on the second side of the door.

## KNOW-HOW

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## 1-2-3

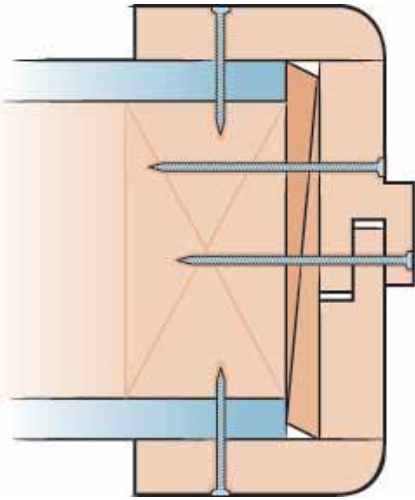
YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



For other projects like this, please refer to **HOME IMPROVEMENT 1-2-3** available at your local The Home Depot store.

# INSTALLING AN INTERIOR DOOR

## INSTALLING SPLIT-JAMB INTERIOR DOORS



**Split-jamb prehung doors work well** in situations where the rough frame is wider than a standard opening. They have a two-piece jamb that sandwiches the wall. A big advantage of a split-jamb interior door is that the casing is already attached, so no mitering is necessary.

## STEP 1



**Separate the two halves of the jamb.** Set the "slip" (or unhinged) side in the room where it will be installed. Put the hinge stop side in the opening. Tack through the casing near the top. Block and shim near the hinges on both jambs and above the jamb. Plumb and square the unit. Nail through the jamb (not the stop) into the frame with 6d finishing nails.

## STEP 2



**Cut the shims flush with the first half of the jamb.** Inset the other slip of the door into the first half and gently push it into place until the casing reaches the wall. Use 6d finishing nails to nail through both halves of the jamb, right in the center of the stop. Nail the casing to the wall with 4d finishing nails.

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