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BEST FACE FORWARD

An entrance door is the first thing people notice when they walk into a house. So make sure yours looks beautiful and welcoming

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Choosing the right entrance door is one of the most important considerations of a home owner. It has to be tough and durable yet gracious and attractive. The design should flawlessly merge with the architecture of the house and complement the overall look of the façade. At the same time, it has to be durable. Colour selection, security issues and personal taste plays an important role when it comes to picking the right door.

Cost, performance and aesthetics are important considerations when it comes to choosing the material of the entrance door. Fiberglass doors have the ability to mimic natural wood and it can be easily manipulated

to match the architectural style of any home. Steel, on the other hand, is strong and the best choice for security but it dents easily and can rust. Though wooden doors are high maintenance and can crack and fade over time, most owners of luxury apartments and villas prefer this to any other material because of its versatility and beauty. And, in wooden doors one can choose from walnut, mahogany, teakwood and pine. Hyatt Interiors is one company that manufactures ornate, carved and customised as well as simple and elegant wooden doors. According to Inam Ahmed, director of Hyatt Interiors, "We supply wooden doors to many real estate developers and one of our valued clients is DLF. Our wooden

doors have been selected for many of their luxury apartments in Gurgaon." The cost is slightly on the higher side with the starting price of ₹5000 and it goes to above a lakh per door depending on the requirement.

Another smart and versatile material is glass. Clear tempered glass with fabric lamination, laminated glass with clear PVB inside, designer glasses like etched, frosted, stained, etc and solar control glasses for solar and thermal insulation can be used for doors. Glass doors are usually customized as per customer requirement and their prices vary from design to design.

According to Aditya Bhutani, CEO, Glasxperts, "Entrance doors can be made into different designs based on the profiles and materials being used.

CHANGING THE ENTRANCE DOOR

- The size of the entrance door in most apartments is the same and this is convenient since nowadays most entrance doors are pre-hung in a frame and are often predrilled for a knob and deadbolt
- But if one wants to install a larger door or add sidelights to an existing door, then the frame around the door will have to be replaced by a skilled carpenter
- At times, the frame can get damaged during the replacement job, which means that it will have to be changed or repaired
- The new door should ideally be the same size as the old one
- Be sure to choose a door that has the same thickness as the old one
- If the frame doesn't need to be changed make sure that it matches the new door



THINKSTOCK

Door profiles are either made of wood, aluminium or uPVC (un-plasticised poly vinyl chloride) onto which nowadays people are going for glasses to enhance aesthetics without compromising on safety and security. Various kinds of glasses are used like designer glass, PVB laminated glass, fabric laminated glass, safety glass, etc. which can be fitted inside wooden, aluminium and uPVC profiles."

One can also go for a combination of materials like fibreglass and steel doors with wooden frames. According to interior designer Vikas Gupta, "Nowadays, instead of solid wood one can choose wood-veneer skins over an engineered-wood core. This is a low cost alternative but has the same effect as solid wood." Some luxury apartments offer polished teak-wood frame with paneled door shutters. Other favourites are panel and glass designs, grille patterns, sidelights and transoms.