

AN OLD DOOR CLOSES,

A NEW ONE OPENS

Five benefits to consider when replacing a door

By Jason Myrvik,
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Most doors on buildings are built to last a long time. However, outdated operating systems can pose safety risks, making old doors more susceptible to breakdowns. Extreme weather conditions and lack of maintenance can also cause older doors to become structurally and cosmetically worn out over time, leading to even more issues.

One way to prevent potential problems and give these structures new life is by replacing the door with a new bifold or hydraulic door. A new door can have a dramatic effect on the functionality, safety, and appearance of the exterior of the structure. Here are five factors to consider for a door replacement that enhance usability and longevity.

1. Maximize productivity and space

One advantage of upgrading to a bifold or hydraulic door is that the manufacturer will design the replacement door to accommodate the building and its height clearance. The custom-designed fit results in optimal performance, energy efficiency, and space utilization.

Manufacturers can tailor doors to meet the customer's vision for both look and function. Doors can be customized with different colors or windows to meet any desired aesthetic.

A new door also requires less maintenance and will not break down at inopportune times, which increases efficiency. By upgrading the door, customers have the assurance that there's no need to repair it every few months, ultimately making it a more cost-effective investment.

2. Safety technology

When doors age, their parts and safety elements do too. Installing new doors ensures that they are outfitted with the most innovative and up-to-date safety features. Doing so offers extra protection, especially when opening and closing the door.

Many manufactured doors have safety ratings to determine if the door has sufficient strength to operate efficiently and safely. For example, some manufacturers, like Midland Door Solutions, offer doors with a rating ranging from 5 to 1. The rating means that the cables and straps opening the door can withstand stress that is up to five times greater than the weight of the door.

Beyond the door itself, locking systems, safety sensor technology, and how the door lifts are all important safety features to consider when looking to replace a door.

3. Locking and opening systems

Many doors offer latch locking systems with safety switches that help prevent the door from opening until it's unlocked. A single latch system with a safety switch improves usability by unlocking the door without going to each side of the door to unlock the jamb locks.

Over the years, there have been key advancements to door designs and technology, such as automated opening systems.

▶ **Cutline:** A new door requires less maintenance and will not break down at inopportune times, which increases efficiency.

▼ **Increase efficiency, usability, and longevity** by upgrading doors.





▲ Installing a new door offers the opportunity to increase opening height and width for extra storage and space.

They provide the option of pushing a button rather than struggling to manually open old sliding doors.

4. Efficient lifting system

Many older doors have survived with outdated operating systems that have prevented the door from working its best. A nylon strap system is an easy upgrade that allows the doors to open more smoothly, which improves productivity and safety while preventing costly maintenance checkups.

Similar to a cable system, the nylon straps wrap around the drum and open the door upwards. This system increases safety because the nylon straps have a rated breaking strength much higher than that of cables.

Adding nylon straps is beneficial because they require less maintenance and exude less noise during operation. Plus, the straps are easy to replace if an issue occurs.

5. Service that fits

Once the decision is made to replace a door, it's important to carefully choose a manufacturer to get the best result and service throughout

the life of the door. With any door design, engineering, or installation project, manufacturers should take a thorough and hands-on approach to ensure the customer is pleased with all stages of the door replacement process.

Look for a manufacturer that has a comprehensive design and planning process that includes several consultations involving building specifications. There is also an advantage to partnering with a manufacturer that works through a dealer network. These local door dealers are available to help with service issues and can even travel to the location to record building opening measurements before the door is built. It will help to ensure a proper fit and to confirm that the design will work.

To provide a fast and turnkey installation, it is beneficial when a manufacturer installs the finished door and also brings all the needed equipment to provide an efficient installation.

In collaboration with the contractor, the manufacturer will ensure that the door lines up precisely with the existing building opening and that it will operate smoothly. Installation crews can even dispose of the old door unless the customer would rather discard it themselves. By upgrading an aged door, customers can have confidence in their investment for the long run.

Finally, ask how service is handled after installation and choose a manufacturer or door dealer that provides periodic general maintenance visits. Regular service will help avoid unnecessary emergency repairs and make the most of the door investment.

Customers in a variety of industries can improve their efficiency and productivity by partnering with door manufacturers who are collaborative and transparent with every project. Choosing a manufacturer that has background experience and quality equipment ensures a successful door installation. From the first consultation to the end result, customers will have peace of mind every time they close their door. ■

About Jason Myrvik

Jason Myrvik is the general manager at Midland Door Solutions and offers more than 20 years of industry experience. As general manager, he oversees the manufacturing and installation departments and ensures the best customer service. Contact him at Jason@MidlandDoorSolutions.com.

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