



Let's Build Something Together™

How To:

INSTALL A DOG DOOR

Skill Level: INTERMEDIATE Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

✓ MATERIALS

- Pet Door
- Drill and Bits
- Jigsaw
- Screwdriver(s)—as needed
- Caulk Sealant—optional
- Weather Stripping/Foam Insulation—optional
- Tape Measure
- Masking Tape
- Pencil
- Side Cutters—as needed
- Safety Glasses
- Work Gloves

If you can't always be there to let your dog, cat or other pet in or out, consider installing a pet door. Here are step-by-step instructions.



PREPARATION

Preparing to install a pet door is easy. Just follow these steps:

01 Decide where the door should be installed. Make sure that the accessed area will be safe for an unattended pet.

- **CAUTION:** Also keep children's safety in mind. Don't install the door where a small child will have access to a swimming pool or roadways. And don't install the door in designated fire doors, such as the one that leads from the house to the garage.

02 Determine the appropriate dog door size.

- Measure the widest part of the pet at the shoulders or hips, then add 2" to the dimension.
- Measure from the top of the shoulders to the bottom of the pet's chest or belly, whichever gives you the largest measurement, then add 2" to the dimension.
- **TIP:** Choose a style and size that will accommodate growing pets as well as pets you intend to own in the future.



03 Take those measurements to a Lowe's store and pick out a door with a flap opening of that size or larger.

- **TIP:** When sizing, remember that a small pet can go through a big door, but a big pet won't fit through a small one. If in doubt, select the larger size of pet door.

04 Select the appropriate type of pet door.

- Plastic and aluminum pet doors mount in standard entry doors.
- Special pet doors can be installed in walls or patio sliders.
- Cat doors are available for window installation.

05 Ask a Lowe's associate for assistance in selecting the appropriate size and type of pet door.

IMPORTANT

Before you install a pet door, identify the door material that you will be cutting through: hollow or solid wood, fiberglass or metal. Identifying the door material will help you select the proper tools and materials for the job. If you have questions, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate.

INSTALLATION

Most pet doors can be installed similarly to the following instructions; however, all the steps may not be necessary based on your specific situation. Refer to your product's manual for detailed installation instructions.

01 Measure your largest pet's shoulder height from the floor.

02 Mark the shoulder height on the door.

- **TIP:** To make the installation easier, consider removing the house door from its hinges and set it horizontally across sawhorses. Lay it *exterior* side up, marking the door top and exterior side with masking tape for reference.

03 Your pet door should include a template for marking the door. Select the appropriate size template.

04 Cut the template as needed for the correct pet door size.

05 Tape the template in place, making sure it is in line with the shoulder mark on the door.

- The pet door can be installed anywhere on the door that allows easy access for the pet. However, make sure the pet door template is at least 3" from the edges or bottom of the house door.

06 Draw a line around the template, then remove the template.

07 Drill a 3/8" hole in each corner of the template outline on the door. This is to help you cut out the hole for the frame, so be sure you drill within the template outline.

- **SAFETY:** Always wear safety glasses when operating a drill.

08 Cut along the template lines with a jigsaw.

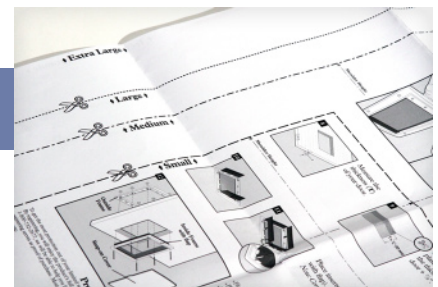
09 Place the *inside* frame (the one with the flap) in position on the door and mark the screw holes.

10 Remove the frame and drill 1/4" holes at each mark. Be sure not to angle the drill.

11 Fit the *outside* frame in the cutout and insert the threaded sleeves through the holes in the frame and the door.

- **TIP:** Use weather stripping/foam insulation around the frame to help provide a tight seal. You can also use a caulk sealant after the door has been installed.

12 From underneath the door, hold the inside frame in the cutout and thread the plastic screws through the frame into the threaded sleeves.





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INSTALLATION (cont.)

13 Tighten the screws.

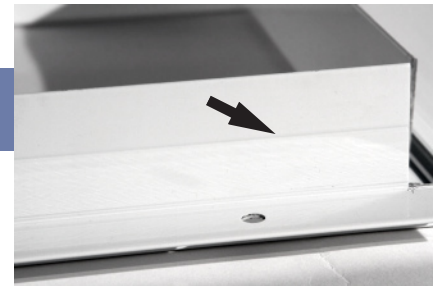
- **TIP:** For 3/8" thick doors, break away outside and inside frames at the grooved line if necessary.

14 Rehang the door if you took it down.

15 Cut off the excess screws with side cutters if necessary.

16 Apply caulk sealant around the pet door frame if desired.

17 Train your pet to use the new pet door comfortably. To restrict access, simply slide the cover over the opening.



And that's it, now your pet can get in and out as needed. If you don't already have a fence, you'll find *Fence Installation Tips*, along with lots of other home improvement videos and printable instructions, at [Lowes.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).

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