

PRESS RELEASE

Stepping through the doorway to interior style

Selecting the right interior doors is an important decision – Cobus Lourens from leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland offers some pointers on what to look for.

20 July 2016, Johannesburg: Interior doors range from elaborate to being supremely plain, however, they remain one of those subtle, yet necessary installations that if chosen correctly, can make a big impact on your home's interior style and functionality. Says Cobus Lourens from leading window and door manufacturer: "Interior doors remain a pivotal and an often-used element in any home, and therefore, a good amount of consideration should go into their selection. Whether you are building, remodelling or just looking to improve the look of an interior space, selecting the right interior door is an important step." He offers the following pointers on what to look for when choosing interior doors for your home:

Different styles

Interior doors are available in a number of different styles – from very ornate, to super plain. Says Cobus: "Although you don't have to use exactly the same interior doors throughout your home, it is important to keep some of the elements the same to create a sense of flow throughout. Also, be sure to consider proportions when choosing interior doors – a massive double door will overwhelm a small room, and vice versa. Swartland offers a large selection of standard doors sizes that can be bought off-the-shelf from various retailers throughout South Africa, in both traditional and contemporary designs. For a dramatic statement, or to let more light in, Swartland can also design interior doors to your unique specifications, for a truly bespoke end result."

Door swing

You can choose between doors with either a left-hand and a right-hand swing. The swing that you choose will determine where the hinges and the door handles will be fitted, and which way the door will open once it is hung. Says Cobus: "The space in which the door will be fitted will largely dictate which way it should swing. For example, if the door is positioned on the extreme right-hand side of a wall, it would be best to choose a door with a right-hand swing so that it opens towards the adjacent wall."

Door framing

The doorframe you choose for your interior doors is arguably as important as the doors themselves, explains Cobus: "Framing a door incorrectly can detract from the beauty and the functionality of the door. The doorframe plays an important part in how the door opens and closes, and the surround can make a big impact on the aesthetics of the installation. As such, it is important to get

your door frame installed and the door hung by a professional who knows what they are doing.”

You can also opt to invest in pre-hung doors, which are interior doors that come mounted in a frame, with its hinges and all the hardware already attached. “Says Cobus: “We are particularly proud of Swartland’s Cape Culture Pre-Hung doors – for your convenience, these doors are fully assembled, with the door already fixed to the frame. Swartland also offers doors that come pre-sealed, and pre-glazed if necessary, for optimum convenience.”

Door types

There is a virtually endless array of different doors to choose from on the market, which can make the selection process complicated. Cobus advises to carefully consider your home’s architectural style, the size of the room, and the flow of the space in question, before making your final decision. He says that Swartland offers a wide variety of quality interior doors to suit myriad of different budgets and styles, from contemporary to traditional. Although Swartland doesn’t supply all the doors mentioned below, he provides a list of the different types of doors proving to be popular in today’s market:

1. **Sliding doors:** These doors are usually manufactured from timber and glass, or lined with mirrors to create the illusion of added space. They are often used as closet doors, and use a minimal amount of space to function, making them a great choice when space is at a premium.
2. **Pocket doors:** Pocket doors can be used throughout the home, and are a really great space-saving invention. Unlike swing doors, these doors roll open into purpose-built cavities that have been built into the walls alongside. When open, they are neatly tucked away inside the wall, leaving minimal visual impact and using up no living space at all.
3. **Folding doors:** Folding doors can range in size – from bi-fold doors for small spaces, and much larger sizes. They are usually used in spaces where a swing or a sliding door won’t fit, such as closets, laundry rooms or compact guest toilets. However, larger ones are also successfully used in open-plan layouts to divide one living space from another when required. The beauty of using folding doors in these applications is that you can open them all the way up to create one large open-plan layout when desired, and then close the space off into smaller separated areas when necessary.
4. **Flush doors:** If minimalistic and plain is what you are after, then flush doors is the way to go. Simply put, these doors are exceptionally simple and smooth on both sides, for a clean and sleek end result.
5. **Barn doors:** Barn doors have made a huge resurgence in the décor world lately. As their name implies, they were originally used in barns; however, they have more recently been adopted for interior and exterior residential applications as well. Barn doors operate by running on top runners that the doors hang off. Like sliding doors, barn doors are a great option for rooms that lack depth, as you don’t need to waste any space for

the door swing, as they run alongside the wall instead. Barn doors also add a certain visual flair that is great for rustic or industrial spaces.

6. **Panel doors:** These are arguably the most common interior doors we see in homes today. There are various types of panel doors – ranging from 2-panel styles, right through to 6- and 9-panel designs.
7. **French doors:** These doors are double swing doors that remain a great option for lighting up interior spaces. They offer a grand feeling to any interior space, and comprise doors with a frame around one or more transparent panels, which are fitted with clear, opaque or coloured glass. French doors can boast one glass panel per door, or they can boast a number of different panels, such as in the cottage pane designs that are currently very popular.
8. **Dutch doors:** These doors are divided into two parts horizontally, allowing the top half to open, while the bottom half remains closed. They were originally used in barns and for exterior purposes, however, today they are often used in various interior applications. In kitchens for example, you can create a serving hatch by opening the top half of the door, while keeping the bottom half of the door closed to close off the rest of the kitchen from the living space.
9. **Blind doors:** These doors have been designed to seamlessly integrate with the wall in which they are built – a hidden door so to speak. As such, they are created with no visible trim, handles or hinges.

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