

PRESS RELEASE

What your front door says about you...

Your front door may be the way into your home, but it also offers an insight into your personality. We speak to Cobus Lourens from leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland, about what your front door says about you.

20 September 2016, Johannesburg: From early Chinese and Greek philosophy, through to modern times, front doors and entryways have always been upheld as a representation of the character of those living inside. Says Cobus Lourens from leading window and door manufacturer, Swartland: "Your home's front door plays a big part in its curb-side appeal, but it also says a lot about the people who live behind it. From style, colour, shape, and size – all these elements play a role in defining the first impressions of your home, as well as the homeowners."

Door styles: One of the most important aspects of a front door is that it needs to complement the architectural style of the building in which it is featured. And, of course, the architectural style of the home you choose is a reflection of your personal sense of taste and personality. For example, do you prefer the neat orderliness, practicality and simplicity of uncluttered and streamlined contemporary styles, such as those inherent in Swartland's KENZO range of aluminium front doors? Or are you more whimsical and romantic, preferring the more traditional or classical styles, such as those featured in Swartland's Cape Culture and Winsters timber ranges?

Door colour: Your front door can be finished in a wide array of colours and treatments – from bold neutrals, such as greys, blacks and whites, through to genuine timber tones, or literally thousands of bold pantone-type hues. The colour you choose for your front door reveals a lot about your character. According to colour psychology charts, neutral tones reveal that you prefer elegant, sophisticated styles, and that you are generally a practical and calm individual. Natural timber tones shows that you admire the unique grains of genuine timber and its classical appeal – you are generally a homely type, who is nurturing, generous and kind. Brighter tones on the other hand, mean that you like to stand out from the crowd and make a statement. Adding a bright colour to your front door is a great way of making your home's front entrance pop, and adding a bit of personal flavour. Swartland's Ready2Fit range of doors and windows allows its clients to select the finish of their choice, as well as the preferred glazing, so that the doors and windows arrive on site pre-treated and pre-glazed for optimum efficiency.

Door shape: Although there are definite exceptions, for the most part, front doors are generally rectangular in shape – as this is by far the most practical option for front door design. However, if you are an individual who values customised solutions, and appreciates ample light in your home and access to the outdoor vistas, it is possible to shape the installation using additional sidelights and toplights. These are glazed units that have been designed to be installed either on one or both sides of a front door, or above it. They add to the overall

perceived size and height of the installation, and its overall aesthetic appeal. The glazing is very practical, as it lets in light and views from the outdoors, and its glazing can either be plain, or it can be opaque, etched, bevelled or ornate stained glass – the choice is yours. For those who admire the orderliness and simplicity of clean design lines, you can opt for straight, rectangular side- and toplights with plain or opaque glass. However, if you have a penchant for the more glamorous, old world-type styles, why not opt for a half-round toplight with an eye-catching stained glass insert to add some sophisticated charm to your front entrance?

Door size: The size of your door should be in proportion to the size of your home – if you have a large home, then your front door needs to be adequately large, however, if you have a small home, a large front door will look out of place and make the home in which it is fitted seem even smaller than it is. Having said that, it is easy to see how large front doors create a bigger visual impact and establish the perception of wealth, success and high standing. You can opt for a single front door, or a double front door to make a grand statement. If you own a small house, but you have your heart set on a double front door, then it is advisable to select a pair of doors with a narrow width to ensure that they don't overwhelm your home's entrance. Standard door widths range from 813mm for a single door, and between 1,210mm and 1,612mm for a double door. The standard height for a door is 2,032mm. Although, strictly speaking pivot doors are also single doors, they tend to make more of a visual statement, as they are larger than the standard-sized single doors, measuring between 1,200mm and 1,500mm wide, and 2,032mm and 2,400mm in height.

ENDS

Released on behalf of Swartland (www.swartland.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za).