

# Installing A Storm Door

*By Ron Specht*



Installing your own storm door is a relatively simple DIY project, and will be extremely rewarding if you take your time and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions carefully. A storm door, as simple as it may appear, also provides many benefits to any home. It can add years to the exterior finish and appearance of your existing entry door. It will help to insulate and weatherproof the entry door; and it provides additional security while adding to the overall appearance of your home.

It's easy these days to find a storm door that complements just about any home style. I suggest to look for models that feature a solid inner core, and have a low maintenance finish.

Most storm door frames allow for a small amount of variance to your existing door opening, but it is important to measure the opening carefully before buying and installing your door. Measure the dimensions from the inside edges of the entry door's brick molding. Then subtract

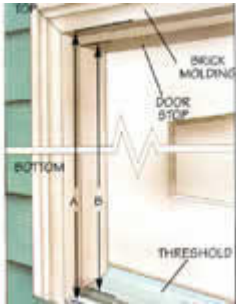
approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the width of the opening to give you the proper storm door size. Be sure to measure for the height of the door also. Any difference in opening size can easily be adjusted and compensated for when you install the storm door frame.

When you select or order a storm door, remember to specify one that has the door handle on the same side as your entry door. This will make passage through the storm and entry doors much easier than if the handles are on opposite sides. Some doors are reversible so you can have them mounted either way.

Storm doors, because of the large amount of glass exposure and the tight weatherseal they provide, can cause sunlight to produce considerable heat build-up in the space between the storm door and the entry door. In the winter, this additional heat can be a good thing, but in the middle of summer, the heat build-up can actually be hot enough to damage the plastic trim on entry doors.

For this reason, some entry door manufacturers do not recommend installing a storm door with their products. It's a good idea to check the manufacturer's recommendations and restrictions of your existing entry door before buying a storm door unit.

## FITTING THE STORM DOOR FRAME TO THE DOOR OPENING



1) Measure from the threshold to the top of the door opening along the corner of brick molding (A), and along the front edge of entry door stop (B). Subtract 1/4" from these measurements to allow for some adjustments when the door is installed.



2) Measure from the top of the storm door frame to the threshold and mark the hinge side of the Z bar for the cut. Some thresholds are angled, if so cut the angle to fit.



3) Use a hacksaw to cut down through the bottom of the storm door frame. (If angled be sure to hold the hacksaw at the same slant as the angled line so the cut will be smooth and straight).

## INSTALLING THE STORM DOOR



1) Keeping the top of the hinged Z bar 3/16 " above the top of the door, fasten the hinged Z bar to the door using the screws provided.



2) Center the top drip cap in the opening. Drill pilot holes and screw the top piece to the brick molding.



3) Position the storm door and hinged Z bar in the opening and push the frame tight against the brick molding on the hinge side of the storm door. Then pre-drill the top hole and fasten with screws provided.



4) Level the hinged side pre-drill and fasten the rest of the screws on the hinge face. Open the door then pre-drill and fasten the screws through the holes at each hinge.



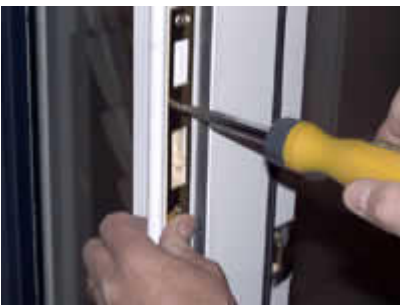
5) After measuring and cutting the latch side Z Bar, maintain a gap of about 3/16" between the door and frame, then pre-drill and install the screws on this side. (You can use a coin or a piece of cardboard as a spacer)



6) Slip the bottom door sweep onto the door, center it, close the door and adjust the sweep so it meets the bottom of the door sill. Then pre-drill and secure the door sweep to the storm door with the screws provided. Re-adjust if necessary.



7) Install door latch that came with the door according to separate instructions provided with that hardware.



8) Attach and adjust the strike plate on the latch side.



9) Install the door closer or closers provided with the door, be sure to follow directions carefully. Adjust the door closing pressure to suit your needs.

Enjoy your newly installed storm door.

If you have a question about this how-to project or any other home improvement project, e-mail me at [ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com](mailto:ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com).