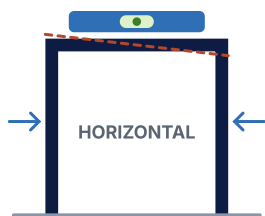


Level, Plumb, Square & True

Four words you hear on every jobsite — and what they actually mean for a door.

Every door and frame is built to work in a perfect opening. The installer's job is to give it one. When an opening misses on any of these four, the door tells you: it rubs, binds, won't latch, or won't seal. **Get these right and the door works for decades.**



1 LEVEL Perfectly horizontal.

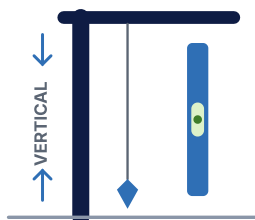
The head of the frame and the line across the floor must sit dead flat. Floors are rarely level — the frame has to be shimmed to correct it, never bent to follow it.

CHECK WITH

Spirit level or laser on the head and sill

WHEN IT'S OFF

Door rubs at the top, uneven gap at the head, weatherstrip won't seal



2 PLUMB Perfectly vertical.

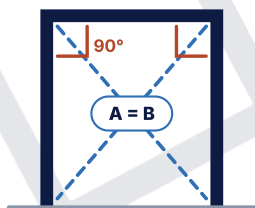
Each jamb must stand straight up — checked in two directions: across the face of the wall and along its depth. The hinge jamb matters most; it carries the full weight of the door.

CHECK WITH

Plumb bob, long level or laser, full height

WHEN IT'S OFF

Door drifts open or closed on its own, sags, binds when operated



3 SQUARE Every corner at exactly 90°.

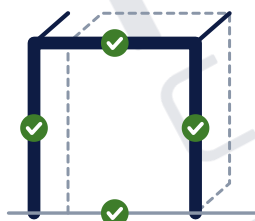
Square is the result of level and plumb working together — you can't have one without the others. The fastest proof: measure both diagonals of the opening. Equal diagonals mean a square opening.

CHECK WITH

Tape on both diagonals; framing or speed square at the corners

WHEN IT'S OFF

Door binds at a corner, reveals look uneven, corners spring back



4 TRUE Level, plumb and square — on every side.

The most forgotten of the four. An opening can check perfect on the hinge side and still be twisted overall. True means **all four sides** are right *and* both jambs sit in the same plane — no twist from one side to the other.

CHECK WITH

Two strings corner to corner across the face — they should just touch

WHEN IT'S OFF

Door hits the stop at one corner, won't close evenly, leaks air and light

THE BOTTOM LINE

If a door has to be forced to close or latch, don't start with the hinges or the hardware. **Check the opening first: level, plumb, square and true.** Nine times out of ten, that's where the problem is.