



JOINERY BUYING GUIDES

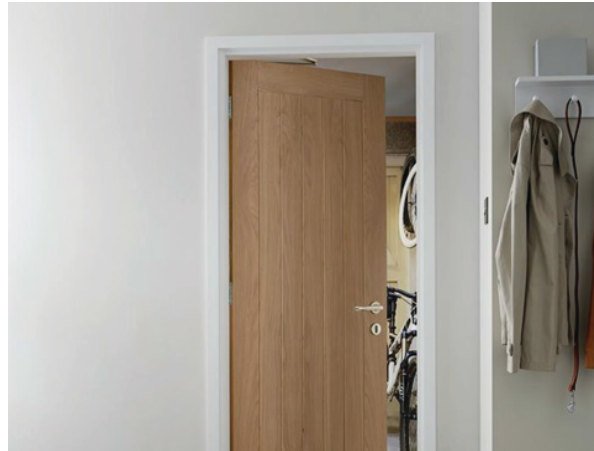
Fire Door Safety Guide

More than 45,000 fires in homes and buildings break out every year (source: Gov.uk). Read our guide for advice on how to protect your home or business from the spread of fire and how to conform to UK fire-safety standards.



What is an FD fire rating?

An FD rating indicates the length of time a product can protect against the spread of smoke and fire. Most commonly used are FD30, which protects up to 30 minutes and FD60 which provides 60 minutes of protection. Some ratings, like FD30S, specifically denote smoke resistance.



FD30 rated

Most commonly used in domestic dwellings, these provide ample protection for quick evacuation for family homes. Available in various wood materials, finishes and designs, it is easy to find a design that is fashionable and fire resistant.



FD60 rated

Often used in commercial settings, these allow more time for a swift and safe exit for many people in a building. Supplied unfinished, there are internal and external styles to choose from and a choice of sizes to get a precise fit.

Where to use in residential properties



Two levels and extensions

If a residential property rooms over two floors, including loft conversions, then FD30-rated hardware must be used on between habitable rooms leading to stairwells.



Garages

Fire doorways are also required between homes and integral garages. Any entrance that leads indoors from an external building, such as a garage, requires a fire-rated fixture.



Apartment entrances

Flat doorways are, by law, required to have fire-rated components. In the event of a fire, this helps slow the spread of fire and smoke from one apartment to the next.

Where to use in commercial properties



Commercial escapes

Multi-storey buildings must have a sufficient number of stairs and alternative escape routes to avoid people being trapped. The fire exits must also be adequately sized and signposted, to allow for a quick and easy evacuation in an emergency.



Public passageways

By law, any rooms which connect to an exit route must be fitted with fire-rated doorsets. This is to prevent the spread of fire and smoke blocking off any escape routes, making it safer and easier to evacuate.



Lockable doorways

Any internal rooms which are required to be locked at all times, such as storage cupboards, must also be fitted with fire doorset assemblies. You will find this type of entry in commercial settings, schools, and offices.



Entrance widths

An 800mm minimum opening is required in commercial properties. For wider corridors of 1200mm or more, the gap needs to span at least 825mm. External exits also need to have a minimum opening of 1000mm.



Resistance

To ensure an effective and consistent level of fire resistance is achieved in any given location, the ratings of all doorway components and the joining walls must match a minimum rating of FD60. This includes supporting fire-rated components.



Ventilation and glass

A gap of up to 3mm between is required to provide enough space for intumescent strips to expand during a fire. All glazed entrances must have safety glass fitted by a specialist to meet specification set by building control.

Tips for buying fire doors



Frames

Being an integral part of an entranceway's structure, it is a requirement that specialist framing parts must also be fire rated. This should match the fire rating of other components, such as doorways or lockable parts.



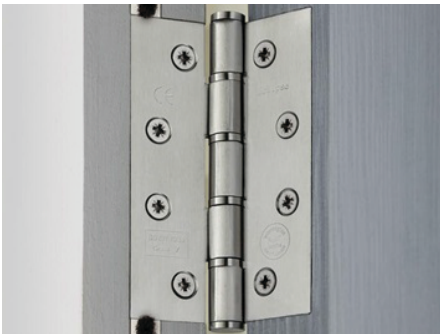
Casings

While also providing support, these fire-rated parts have added strength to maintain an entranceway's effectiveness against fire and the spread of smoke. The FD rating, such as 30, should match the rest of the installation.



Linings

This type of specialist component is a legal requirement when fitting a fire-safe entrance. As with other elements, they must match the overall FD-rating of the doorway for it to be fully compliant.



Fire-rated hinges

A minimum of three fire-rated hinges are required when fitting a fire door - all must withstand temperatures of at least 800 degrees. Its grade will also determine the weight it can support.



Door closers

Fire-rated closers mean a doorway will swing shut after use closing off areas in the event of a fire. They may be required in certain premises, so it is best to consult your local building control.



Fire door locks

A fire-safe doorway should be fitted with locks that are compliant to BS EN 12209 standards. They must also be installed alongside intumescent paper for added protection.



Panic hardware packs

In an emergency, any exits need to be obvious, as well as quick and easy to open. Additional parts can include clear signage, and fire-rated push pads that provide a quick escape in the event of a fire.



Intumescent strips

Strips are fitted in the gaps between doors and frames, while pads protect components like hinges. They expand when exposed to heat to create a tight seal. This will help slow the spread of smoke and fire, allowing more time to evacuate.



Foams

It is critical to ensure the gap between the wall and the frame is filled and sealed with a suitable fire-resistant product. Fire rated foam is one example of a product that is suitable for filling this gap and creating a safe doorway.



Fire-rated packs

It is important to make sure that you have all the right parts to protect against fire before installing a doorway. These combined packs contain everything from hinged fixings to lockable components for a safe and thorough fit.








Alarms and detectors

In 25% of serious fires there are no smoke detectors to raise the alarm (source: Gov.uk), so fitting one can make a huge difference to improve personal safety. Modern alarms and smart devices can even send mobile alerts in emergencies.

Essential reading and downloads



	Certification	Gaps	Seals	Hinges	Closing properly
WHAT TO CHECK	 Look for a label or plug on top (or occasionally on the side) of the door.	 Check the gaps around the top and sides of the door are consistently less than 4mm when the door's closed. The gap under the door can be slightly larger (up to 8mm), but it does depend on the door. Ideally, you should not see light under the door.	 Look for any intumescent seals around the door or frame. Check they're intact with no sign of damage.	 Check all hinges are firmly fixed (three or more of them), with no missing or broken screws.	 Check the door closes firmly onto the latch without sticking on the floor or the frame.
WHY	Without a certification mark, you cannot be sure this really is a fire door.	Make sure gaps are not so big that smoke and fire could travel through the cracks.	Be sure the seals will expand if they're in contact with heat, and will stop the fire (and in some cases smoke) moving.	Be sure the door has been properly maintained, and in the intensity of a fire will perform properly.	A fire door only works when it's closed. A fire door is completely useless if it's wedged open or can't close fully.

Top facts on fire safety

Our fire-safety guide offers useful information on fire doors, where to use them, top facts to remember on fire-safety, along with a quick fire-safety checklist - all in one document.

Regularly assess fire risks

Fire-safety assessments should be carried out annually by a qualified fire risk assessor. Fire doorsets should also be inspected by a qualified professional every six months. The government's HSE also have more tips of fire-safety risks.

Five-step fire door checklist

Our checklist covers the five key areas of fire-safety hardware. It looks at what to check and how, as well as what to do if your entrances and exits are not up to scratch.



Ready to get started?



Explore all fire doors



Learn how to buy



Call us for more info