



## INSTALLATION GUIDE

# Door & Sidelite Kit Assembly

Build a complete prehung door system from a kit — single, double, or with sidelites — before installing in your opening.

### APPLIES TO

**Pease Entry Door & Sidelite Systems**

### SKILL LEVEL

**Intermediate DIY**

### TIME

**2–5 Hours**

# What's Inside

This guide covers the assembly of a Pease door system from individual components — jambs, threshold, slabs, hinges, and sidelites — into a complete prehung unit ready for installation. Use it if you ordered a kit (pre-drilled or blank), if your door system shipped piecemeal, or if you're field-prepping jambs. After assembly, follow our **Prehung Exterior Door Installation Guide** to set the unit in your rough opening.

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## **THIS GUIDE STOPS AT THE ASSEMBLED UNIT**

When you finish this guide you'll have a fully assembled prehung unit sitting flat — not yet in your wall. For installing the unit in the rough opening, follow the **Pease Doors Prehung Exterior Door Installation Guide** at [peasedoors.com](https://peasedoors.com).

## Before You Start

A door kit lets you customize handing, prep, and configuration on site — useful when your opening doesn't match standard dimensions, when you want to choose hinge and lockset locations to match existing strikes, or when you're shipping into a tight space where a fully assembled prehung won't fit through the door.

### CONFIGURATIONS COVERED

This guide covers all six common Pease door system configurations:

CONFIGURATION	DESCRIPTION
Single door	One slab in a 3-piece jamb (head + 2 legs) with threshold. The most common configuration.
Single door + 1 sidelite	Active door plus one fixed glass sidelite panel beside it. Uses a mull post in place of one leg jamb.
Single door + 2 sidelites	Active door with sidelites on both sides. Uses two mull posts as inner jambs and two outer leg jambs.
Double door	Two slabs hinged at outer jambs, meeting at an astragal in the middle. One door is active, one inactive.
Double door + 2 sidelites	Pair of doors plus sidelites on both sides. Combines double-door astragal with mull-post sidelite framing.
Sidelite panel only	Standalone sidelite assembly (rare — typically a sidelite is part of a door+sidelite system).

### KEY TERMS

A few terms used throughout this guide:

**Jamb.** The vertical or horizontal frame member that the door hangs in. A door system has a head jamb (top), hinge jamb (door hangs from this leg), and lock jamb (the leg with the strike). Sidelite configurations use additional jambs.

**Mull post.** An inner jamb that separates a door from a sidelite. It's prepped to act as the hinge or lock jamb for the door on one side, and as the panel-receiving jamb for the sidelite on the other side.

**Astragal.** On a double door, the vertical molding attached to the inactive door that bridges the gap between the two slabs. It contains flush bolts (top and bottom) that lock the inactive door, and acts as the strike for the active door's lockset.

**Active vs. inactive door.** On a double door, the active door is the one used daily — it has the lockset and deadbolt. The inactive door stays closed in normal use, secured by flush bolts in the astragal.

**Sidelite adapter.** A wood or plastic piece that sits at the bottom of the sidelite opening, between the threshold and the bottom of the sidelite panel. It fills the height where a door sweep would normally live and gives the panel a flat, sealed surface to rest on.

## Verify Your Components

Before you start assembly, lay everything out and confirm you have all the parts. Find your configuration in the section below and check off each item. If anything is missing, call us at **1-513-871-8907** before you cut, drill, or assemble — we'll ship the missing piece.

### SINGLE DOOR

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head jamb  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinge jamb (or blank, if field-prepping)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lock jamb (or matching blank, if field-prepping)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Threshold  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door slab  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinges (3 for standard 6'8"/7'0" doors, 4 for 8'0" doors) and hinge screws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weatherstripping (kerf-in)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Door sweep   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lock hardware (optional — may be supplied separately)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk for threshold-to-jamb and sweep-to-door (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brickmold (optional — not all openings need it)                            |

### SIDELITE PANEL (STANDALONE)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head jamb  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blank jamb pair                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Threshold  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sidelite panel                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sidelite adapter (wood or plastic, replaces threshold rail / sweep height) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stop trim (holds the panel in the jamb) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish nails (for stop trim)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk (panel-to-adapter, jamb-to-threshold)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Brickmold (optional)                    |

### DOUBLE DOOR

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head jamb  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinge leg jambs (matching pair — one for each side)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astragal (with flush bolts top and bottom, plus astragal screws) | <input type="checkbox"/> Threshold  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two door slabs (active + inactive)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Two sets of hinges (3 each for standard heights, 4 each for 8'0") and hinge screws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two door sweeps  | <input type="checkbox"/> Weatherstripping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lock hardware (optional — includes dummy hardware for inactive door)               |

- Caulk for threshold-to-jamb and sweep-to-door (optional)
- Brickmold (optional)

### SINGLE DOOR + 1 SIDELITE

- Head jamb
- Mull post (prepped as hinge jamb OR lock jamb — or blank for field prep)
- Outer leg jamb (prepped opposite the mull post: lock jamb if mull is hinge-prepped, hinge jamb if mull is lock-prepped)
- Outer blank leg jamb (for the far side of the sidelite)
- Threshold
- Door slab
- Hinges (3 for standard heights, 4 for 8'0") and hinge screws
- Weatherstripping (kerf-in, for door)
- Door sweep
- Sidelite panel
- Sidelite adapter
- Stop trim (for sidelite)
- Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)
- Finish nails (for sidelite stop trim)
- Caulk (sidelite to adapter, jambs to threshold; sweep to door optional)
- Lock hardware (optional)
- Brickmold (optional)

### SINGLE DOOR + 2 SIDELITES

- Head jamb
- Two mull posts (matching hinge-jamb prep — one for each side of the door)
- Two outer blank leg jambs (matching pair, for the far sides of both sidelites)
- Threshold
- Door slab
- Hinges (3 for standard heights, 4 for 8'0") and hinge screws
- Weatherstripping (for door)
- Door sweep
- Two sidelite panels
- Sidelite adapters (one per sidelite)
- Stop trim (for both sidelites)
- Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)
- Finish nails (for sidelite stop trim)
- Caulk (sidelites to adapters, jambs to threshold; sweep to door optional)
- Lock hardware (optional)
- Brickmold (optional)

### DOUBLE DOOR + 2 SIDELITES

- Head jamb
- Two outer blank leg jambs (matching pair, far sides of the sidelites)
- Threshold
- Two sets of hinges (3 each for standard heights, 4 each for 8'0") and hinge screws
- Weatherstripping
- Sidelite adapters (one per sidelite)
- Assembly screws (jamb-to-threshold)
- Caulk (sidelites, jambs, sweeps as applicable)
- Brickmold (optional)
- Two mull posts (matching hinge-jamb prep — inner posts for the two doors)
- Astragal (with flush bolts, plus astragal screws)
- Two door slabs (active + inactive)
- Two door sweeps
- Two sidelite panels
- Stop trim (for both sidelites)
- Finish nails (for sidelite stop trim)
- Lock hardware (optional, with dummy hardware for inactive door)

#### **MULL POST PREP MATTERS**

On any sidelite configuration, the mull post is prepped on its *door-facing* side to match the door's handing — hinges or lockset on the appropriate edge. The *sidelite-facing* side is plain and ready to receive the sidelite stop trim. If you ordered the wrong handing, swap the mull post with the matching outer leg jamb (which will be prepped the opposite way) before assembly.

## Tools & Materials

Kit assembly is mostly drill-and-screw work. You'll do this on a flat surface — a garage floor, driveway, or large workbench — not in the rough opening. Make sure you have enough room to lay out the assembled unit before you start.

### ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape measure (25')  | <input type="checkbox"/> Combination square      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-foot level  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cordless drill/driver   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drill bit set (1/8" for poplar/pine; 5/32" for mahogany or oak threshold) | <input type="checkbox"/> Phillips bit and driver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer (for finish nails on stop trim)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail set                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses  |  |

### ALSO HELPFUL TO HAVE ON HAND

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sawhorses (2 for 6'8" doors; 3 + plywood sheet for 8' doors) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar clamps or quick-grip clamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Framing or speed square (for corner squareness)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber mallet                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caulk gun (if caulking joints)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop vacuum                     |

### MATERIALS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly screws (typically 2-1/2" or 3", supplied with kit or by others) | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish nails (4d for stop trim; 2-1/2" galvanized casing nails for brickmold) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior-grade caulk (silicone or polyurethane)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood glue (optional — adds rigidity but makes future disassembly difficult)   |

#### LAY OUT THE UNIT BEFORE YOU START

Find a flat space large enough to lay the assembled unit on its back — about 4 feet wider and 2 feet taller than the door slab itself. Garage floors, basement floors, or a couple of pieces of plywood across sawhorses all work. Assembling a door system in cramped space leads to dropped pieces and out-of-square joints.

## Pilot Holes & Pre-drilling

Many Pease jambs ship with pre-drilled pilot holes at standard locations — if yours do, you can skip this section and go directly to assembly. If your jambs and threshold are blank or undrilled, take the time to drill pilot holes before driving any screws. Pease jambs are typically **poplar or mahogany**, with some composite options; threshold bases (the part that receives the assembly screws) are commonly **pine, oak, or another hardwood**. Each species splits differently when a screw is driven without a pilot — mahogany and oak especially — and a split jamb at the threshold corner is structurally compromised. It won't hold the unit square once it's in the opening.

**1**

### Identify your assembly screw locations

On a single door, the threshold is screwed into the bottom of each leg jamb (typically two screws per side), and the head jamb is screwed into the top of each leg jamb (also two per side). Sidelite configurations add the same joints at each mull post. Double doors use the same head and threshold joints, plus the astragal attaches to the inactive door (covered in Section 6).

**2**

### Drill pilot holes

Use a drill bit slightly smaller than the screw shank — typically **1/8" for poplar or pine, 5/32" for mahogany or oak threshold**. Drill straight through the threshold or head jamb into the end grain of the leg jamb. Pilot depth should be roughly the full screw length minus 1/4". Back the bit out periodically to clear chips, especially in mahogany or oak — a clogged bit can bind, overheat, or break. Don't skip this step on the threshold-to-jamb joints — those carry the weight of the door, and a split there ruins the unit.

**3**

### Fully seat or countersink the screw heads

Make sure the screw heads sit flush with or just below the surface of the wood — don't leave them sticking up. Protruding heads make it harder to shim and plumb the unit later (the shims won't lay flat against the jamb), and they reduce the usable contact surface against the rough opening. **Flat-head screws** need a countersink bit so the head can recess into the wood. **Truss-head and pan-head screws** are designed to sit on top of the wood with their wide flat underside — don't countersink these; just snug them down so the head sits flat against the surface.

#### DON'T OVER-DRIVE THE SCREWS

Set your drill's clutch to a moderate torque setting and snug the screws down — don't bury them. Over-driving strips the pilot hole and can crack the surrounding wood, especially around the threshold ends. If a screw spins instead of drawing tight, back it out, fill the hole with a glue-coated wood toothpick or matchstick, let it set, and re-drive.

# Assemble the Jamb-and-Threshold Box

Two assembly orders work for kit assembly on a flat surface, and pros use both. We recommend **Method A (door first)** for most builders — the slab provides a real-world reference for setting reveals as you go, so you finish with a known-good fit. **Method B (box first)** is faster if you're building multiple identical units or if the slab isn't available yet. Either way, verify square by measuring diagonals — don't rely on the slab alone (a slightly warped slab won't catch a slightly out-of-square frame). Pick one method and follow it through.

## METHOD A — DOOR FIRST (RECOMMENDED)

Hang the slab to the hinge jamb on a flat surface, then build the rest of the frame around it. The slab itself sets the reveals, so you finish with a unit that's known to be square and well-fitting.

**1**

### Lay the hinge jamb flat with the slab

Set the hinge jamb on a flat surface (garage floor, plywood across sawhorses) with the kerf for the weatherstrip facing up. Lay the door slab next to it, aligned along the hinge edge.

**2**

### Attach the slab to the hinge jamb

If the hinges aren't already attached to the jamb mortises, install them now. Then attach the slab to the hinges through the slab-side hinge holes. Drill pilot holes first on wood slabs (~1/8"); fiberglass and steel slabs typically have factory pilot points. Drive the top hole of the top hinge first, then top hole of the middle, then top hole of the bottom — then go back and fill the remaining holes. The slab now hangs cleanly from the hinge jamb.

**3**

### Attach the head jamb to the hinge jamb

Stand the head jamb perpendicular to the top of the hinge jamb. Drill pilot holes if not pre-drilled. Drive 2-1/2" or 3" assembly screws through the head down into the top of the hinge jamb — typically two screws. Make sure the head sits flush against the top of the leg with no gap.

**4**

### Position the lock jamb

Set the lock jamb against the head jamb on the opposite side from the hinge jamb. Bring it against the lock edge of the slab so there's a consistent **1/8" reveal between the slab face and the lock jamb stop face** — use a 1/16" shim or two stacked business cards as a spacer (a single business card is too thin). Measure at the top and bottom of the slab to confirm the reveal is consistent top to bottom. Before driving the screws, hold a framing or speed square against the head and lock jamb corner to verify the lock jamb is 90° to the head — once the screws are in, you're locked into whatever angle you set.

**5**

### Attach the lock jamb to the head

Drill pilot holes through the head jamb down into the top of the lock jamb. Drive 2-1/2" or 3" screws — typically two. The frame is now an upside-down U (head + two legs) with the slab hanging in it.

**6**

### Add the threshold

With a helper, lift the U-frame and slab assembly slightly off the work surface — just enough to slide the threshold underneath. The slab's weight will try to pull the lock jamb outward; have the helper hold both legs in their proper position. Slide the threshold under the bottoms of both legs, exterior side facing out (the side with weep holes or sloped face). Lower the assembly onto the threshold so the legs sit on top of the threshold base. Drill pilot holes through the threshold base up into the bottom of each leg. Drive 2-1/2" or 3" screws — typically two per side. Snug them down evenly without over-driving. Bottom of slab should sit about 1/2" above the threshold (this gap will be filled by the door sweep).

**7**

### Check for square and bed the threshold joint

Measure both diagonals of the assembled box, corner to corner. **Within 1/16" is excellent; up to 1/8" is acceptable; more than 1/4" needs to be corrected.** If the slab moves freely with consistent 1/8" reveals on top and sides, the box is square. Run a thin bead of exterior-grade caulk along the inside corner where each leg jamb meets the threshold. Wipe excess with a damp rag.

## METHOD B — BOX FIRST

Build the empty frame, square it, then hang the slab into the assembled box. Faster if you're building multiple identical units, but you're trusting the factory dimensions to give you correct reveals — there's no slab to verify against until the end.

**1**

### Attach the head jamb to both leg jambs

Lay the head jamb flat. Stand each leg jamb perpendicular at each end of the head, with the weatherstrip kerf facing inward. Drill pilot holes if not pre-drilled, then drive 2-1/2" or 3" screws through the head down into the top of each leg — two screws per leg.

**2**

### Add the threshold

Slide the threshold under the legs, exterior side facing out. Drill pilot holes through the threshold base up into each leg. Drive 2-1/2" or 3" screws — two per side.

**3**

### Check for square

Measure both diagonals of the box. **Within 1/16" is excellent; up to 1/8" is acceptable; more than 1/4" needs to be corrected.** If they don't match, gently push the long-diagonal corners toward each other until they do. A box that's out of square here will fight you for the rest of the install.

**4**

### Caulk the threshold-to-jamb joints

Run a thin bead of exterior caulk along the inside corner where each leg meets the threshold.

Then go to **Section 6** to hang the slab in the assembled box.

**FOR SIDELITE CONFIGURATIONS: SUBSTITUTE MULL POSTS FOR ONE OR BOTH LEGS**

On **door + 1 sidelite**, one leg of the box is replaced by a mull post; the outer leg on the sidelite side is a blank or pre-prepped leg jamb. On **door + 2 sidelites** or **double door + 2 sidelites**, both inner legs are mull posts and both outer legs are blank leg jambs. The assembly procedure is otherwise identical — mull posts attach the same way leg jambs do.

**FOR DOUBLE DOORS: HANG THE INACTIVE DOOR FIRST**

On a double door, attach the astragal to the inactive door slab before hanging — typically vertical screws 9" from the bottom and 30" from the top on an 80" slab (adjust proportionally for taller doors). **Drill the flush bolt strike pockets in the head jamb and threshold before assembly** if your jambs are blank — once the box is built, the strikes are awkward to drill in place. Close the inactive door before final assembly to mark where the bolts contact, then drill 1/2" holes 1/4" deep for clearance. In Method A, hang the inactive door first with its astragal attached, then engage the flush bolts to lock the inactive door in place. The active door hangs from the opposite hinge jamb — its lock edge will close against the astragal, which acts as the strike. **Operating sequence:** when entering, open the active door first (the inactive stays bolted shut). When closing for security, close the active door last (you must close active second so it engages the astragal). In Method B, build the box first, then hang inactive then active in the box.

# Hang the Door(s) & Install the Sweep

If you used Method A in Section 5, your slab is already hung — skip to **Step 5: Install the door sweep** below. If you used Method B (built the box first), follow Steps 1–4 to hang the slab in the assembled box, then install the sweep.

**1**

## Stand the assembled box upright (or lay it flat)

With Method B, the box is fully assembled — head, two legs, and threshold. Lean it against a wall or have a helper steady it upright. If your hinges have removable pins, you can also lay the box flat with the door-facing side up; if pins are non-removable, work upright is easier.

**2**

## Separate the hinges and attach one leaf to each side (recommended for removable-pin hinges)

If your hinges have **removable pins** — the most common type — drive the pins out and separate each hinge into two leaves. Screw one leaf of each hinge into the corresponding mortise on the **jamb**, and the matching leaf into the mortise on the **slab**. Drill pilot holes first on wood slabs (~1/8"); fiberglass and steel slabs typically have factory pilot points. With leaves attached on both sides, you can lift the slab into the opening, mate the knuckles top to bottom, and drop the pins back in — the same technique used to install the slab in a finished prehung. This is much easier than wrestling a fully-attached slab into the assembled box.

**3**

## Or: hinge attached, screw through (non-removable pins)

If your hinges are **non-removable pin (NRP)** — used on outswing units and some high-security doors — the leaves can't be separated. The cleanest approach is to **remove the jamb-side hinge leaves** (back the screws out), attach all hinge leaves to the slab, then re-attach the jamb-side leaves with the slab in position. Drill pilot holes first on wood slabs (~1/8"). Drive the top hole of the top hinge first, then top hole of the middle, then top hole of the bottom. With a helper holding the slab in position against the jamb (weight resting on a shim at the bottom for clearance), drive the remaining screws to lock the hinge leaves back into their jamb mortises.

**4**

## Stand the unit up and test the swing

With a helper, stand the assembled unit upright. Open and close the door several times — it should swing freely, with consistent gaps top and sides. Reveals should be roughly 1/8". On an inswing door, watch the bottom hinge as the slab swings open from closed: the slab should not *kick* or *lift* the bottom hinge knuckle. If it does, the slab is binding on the bottom hinge and will sag over time — lay the unit back down and check that the slab is centered and the box is still square.

**5**

**Install the door sweep**

Most Pease door sweeps are **drive-on** style — two flexible barbs on the top of the sweep press into matching kerf slots on the bottom of the slab. **First, trim the sweep to door width** using scissors, shears, or a fine-tooth saw — sweeps ship long (typically 36") and need to match your slab. Then run **two parallel beads of caulk along the top of the sweep, one on each side of the barbs** (a single bead can squeeze out and miss the opposite edge — two beads guarantee a seal on both sides of the kerf). The caulk seals against air and water at the bottom edge of the slab — a critical weatherproofing point. Align the sweep flush with the lock-side end of the door, press the barbs into the kerfs by hand, then tap the sweep fully home with a rubber mallet, working from one end to the other. Wipe any squeezed-out caulk.

## Install Sidelite Panels

Sidelites are fixed glass panels — they don't open or operate like a door. They sit between a mull post and an outer leg jamb, supported at the bottom by a sidelite adapter and held in place by stop trim nailed to both jambs. If your configuration doesn't include sidelites, skip this section.

**1**

### Install the sidelite adapter

The sidelite adapter is a wood or plastic strip that sits in the bottom of the sidelite opening, on the threshold. It replaces what would have been the threshold rail under a door slab and accounts for the height where a door sweep would normally be. Set the adapter into the opening and bed it on a continuous bead of caulk to seal against air and water. Some adapter designs screw into the threshold; others rely on caulk and the panel's weight to stay in place — follow the kit's instructions.

**2**

### Lower the sidelite panel into the opening

With a helper, carefully lift the sidelite panel and set it onto the sidelite adapter. The panel should sit centered between the mull post and outer leg jamb, with at least **1/8" gap on each side** to allow for thermal and structural movement. The top of the panel should clear the head jamb by 1/8" or so.

**3**

### Caulk the panel into place (exterior side only)

Apply exterior-grade caulk along the back edge of the panel **on the exterior side only** where it meets the mull post and outer leg jamb, and along the bottom where it meets the adapter. The interior side gets sealed by the stop trim in the next step — don't caulk the interior at this stage or you'll trap moisture in the rabbet. Don't caulk the front face of the panel either — leave that clean for the stop trim.

**4**

### Install the stop trim

Stop trim is the narrow molding that holds the sidelite panel in the jamb — it nails to the mull post and outer leg jamb on the interior side, pinching the panel between the back rabbet of the jamb and the stop. Cut the stop to length (top, both sides, bottom). Press it tight against the panel face and nail it to the jambs with **4d (1-1/2") finish nails** — 6d nails are too long and may exit the back of the jamb. Place the first nail **4–6 inches from each end** (not at the end — nailing too close to an end will split the trim), then space remaining nails roughly every 8–12 inches. Set the nail heads slightly below the surface with a nail set.

**5**

### For two-sidelite configurations, repeat

Install the second sidelite using Steps 1–4 on the other side of the door. Both sidelites should have matching reveals at top, bottom, and edges — if one sits noticeably higher than the other, check that the threshold is level and both adapters are seated correctly.

**DON'T SKIMP ON CAULK AT THE ADAPTER JOINT**

The sidelite adapter is the lowest point in the sidelite assembly — any water that gets behind the panel ends up here. A continuous bead of high-quality exterior caulk where the adapter meets the threshold, and where the panel meets the adapter, is the difference between a sidelite that lasts decades and one that rots out the threshold in five years.

## Brickmold (Optional)

Brickmold is the exterior trim that surrounds the door unit, covering the gap between the jamb and the wall siding or masonry. Not all installations need brickmold — many homes use other exterior trim, or the rough opening is detailed without separate molding. If your kit included brickmold and your opening calls for it, you can attach it during kit assembly or after the unit is set in the rough opening. Both have tradeoffs.

TIMING	ADVANTAGES	TRADEOFFS
<b>Attach now</b> (during kit assembly)	Brickmold helps hold the unit square during transport and rough-opening insertion. The unit sits flush to the exterior wall on its own, simplifying placement.	Harder to shim and adjust the unit in the rough opening once installed — the brickmold limits how far you can move the frame around. If the rough opening is irregular, you may have to remove and re-attach the brickmold.
<b>Attach later</b> (after rough-opening install)	Maximum flexibility to shim, plumb, and square the unit in the opening. You can also custom-fit the brickmold to the actual exterior wall thickness and any siding irregularities.	The unit is harder to handle and align without brickmold attached. Easier to bow or rack the jamb during installation.

### IF YOU'RE ATTACHING THE BRICKMOLD NOW

1

#### Lay the brickmold pieces around the unit

With the assembled unit on its back, lay the brickmold pieces in their positions — head, hinge side, lock side. Most kits supply pre-mitered corners; if yours come square, miter the corners at 45° with a miter saw.

2

#### Nail the brickmold to the jambs (not the studs)

Drive 2-1/2" galvanized **casing nails** (slightly larger head than finish nails for better holding power on exterior trim) through the brickmold into the jamb and head. Space nails roughly every 12 inches. **Fasten only into the jamb, not through into the wall studs** — nailing brickmold into the studs couples its movement to the wall, which causes the brickmold to crack as the wall and door system flex differently. Set the nail heads slightly below the surface with a nail set so they can be filled and painted.

3

#### Caulk the miters and the brickmold-to-jamb joints

A bead of exterior caulk in each miter joint prevents water intrusion and gives a clean paint line. Caulk also along the seam where the brickmold meets the jamb face. **Don't seal the top edge of the brickmold to the head jamb yet** — if your installation will use a drip cap (Z-flashing) above the head, you'll want to leave that joint open during the rough-opening install so the drip cap can slide between the brickmold and the wall above.

## Final Checks Before Installation

Before you take the assembled unit to the rough opening, run through this short checklist. Catching a problem now — with the unit on the ground — is much easier than discovering it after you've set the unit in the wall.

CHECK	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Frame square	Measure both diagonals of the assembled box — they should match within 1/8" (1/16" or better is excellent).
Threshold level	Place a 4-foot level on the threshold along its length — it should read level. A twisted threshold means one leg is sitting on a high screw point or the legs are unequal length.
Joints tight	All threshold-to-jamb and head-to-jamb joints should be flush with no visible gaps. Tap with a rubber mallet if needed to seat them.
No splintering or cracks	Inspect each pilot hole and screw location. If you see a split radiating from a screw, that joint is compromised — fill with glue and a wood toothpick, re-drill, and re-drive.
Door swings freely	Open and close the door (or each door, on a double). It should swing without binding and close fully against the weatherstrip.
Reveals consistent	The gap between the slab and the head/lock jambs should be roughly 1/8" on all sides, even from top to bottom.
No shipping blocks left in place	Some manufacturers ship slabs with foam blocks or cardboard between the slab and jamb to prevent shifting in transit. Confirm none remain — they'll prevent the door from operating.
Sidelite panels seated	If applicable, sidelites should sit fully on the adapter, not rock or shift, and have stop trim secured on the interior side.
Astragal flush bolts working	On a double door, both flush bolts (top and bottom) should slide smoothly and engage their respective strikes (head jamb and threshold).
Weatherstripping intact	Check the kerf-in weatherstrip is fully seated in the jamb groove with no gaps at the corners.

### NOW YOU'RE READY TO INSTALL

If everything passes, the assembled unit is ready to go into the rough opening. Follow the **Pease Doors Prehung Exterior Door Installation Guide** for the rest — sill pan, shimming, plumbing, fastening, insulation, and weatherproofing.

# Troubleshooting

Common assembly issues and how to fix them. If yours isn't covered here, call us at **1-513-871-8907**.

## ■ **Diagonals don't match — the box is out of square**

First, check that all screws are fully seated and the joints are flush. If a joint has a visible gap, drive that screw tighter. If diagonals are still off, gently push the long-diagonal corners toward each other and re-measure. If the difference is more than 1/4", one of the jambs may be cut wrong from the factory — measure each jamb individually against its mate to check.

## ■ **Wood splits when driving an assembly screw**

Stop driving immediately. Back the screw out, apply wood glue to a wood toothpick or matchstick, push it into the split, and break it off flush. Let the glue set. Drill a fresh pilot hole next to the original (offset 1/4") and re-drive. If the split is large, you may need to clamp the joint while the glue sets.

## ■ **Lock jamb and head jamb don't fit flush — there's a gap at the corner**

The lock jamb wasn't held square to the head when the screws were driven. Back the lock-jamb-to-head screws out, hold a framing or speed square against the head and lock jamb corner, push the joint tight while keeping it at 90°, and re-drive. If a screw hole is now stripped, fill with a glue-coated toothpick and drill a fresh pilot.

## ■ **Door binds at the top of the lock side**

The slab is sitting too low on the hinge side or the top hinge has loosened during assembly. Don't shift the slab and re-drive the original screw holes — instead, add a thin **hinge shim** behind the top hinge to push the slab toward the lock side, or replace one of the top-hinge jamb screws with a 3" screw that bites into the framing once the unit is installed in the rough opening. If the issue is severe, check that the lock jamb is square to the head (see previous item).

## ■ **Door won't close — it hits the head jamb**

The slab is hanging too high — the top reveal is zero or negative. With removable-pin hinges, drive the pins out, lower the slab 1/16–1/8", and re-mate the knuckles. With NRP hinges or already-driven slab screws, shim under the bottom of the hinge jamb to lower the entire frame slightly relative to the slab — or remove the slab from the slab-side hinge leaves and re-position 1/16–1/8" lower.

## ■ **Hinge screws spin in the slab**

The pilot hole is stripped or the slab material isn't holding the screw. On wood slabs, fill with glue-coated toothpicks, let set, and re-drive. On fiberglass or steel, use a slightly longer screw or a screw with a coarser thread — the factory pilot point should accept it. If the slab still won't hold, contact us — it may be a manufacturing defect.

## ■ **Sidelite panel rocks on its adapter**

The adapter isn't fully seated on the threshold. Lift the panel out, check that the adapter sits flat across the full width of the sidelite opening, and re-bed in caulk if needed. If the threshold has a slight crown that's holding the adapter up in the middle, shim the adapter at each end with thin cardboard until it sits flat.

## ■ **Astragal flush bolt won't engage the head jamb or threshold strike**

The strike pocket isn't aligned with the bolt path. On most factory-prepped jambs, the strike is pre-cut; if yours is blank, you'll need to drill or chisel the strike pocket. Close the inactive door, slide the flush bolt up (or down) until it just touches the jamb, and mark the contact point. Drill a 1/2" hole at that point, deep enough to fully receive the bolt with a small clearance margin. Test and adjust.

■ **Astragal is bowed or doesn't sit flat against the inactive door**

Lay the inactive slab flat with the astragal attached and sight down its length — if the astragal is bowed away from the slab, loosen the astragal screws, push the astragal flat against the slab, and re-tighten. If the slab face itself is warped (rare on fiberglass and steel, more common on wood), re-shim between the astragal and slab as needed to bring the astragal straight. The weatherstrip in the astragal kerf may also need to be removed and re-seated.

■ **Stop trim splits when nailing**

Pre-drill nail holes with a bit slightly smaller than the finish nail diameter. Stop trim is typically thin pine and splits easily, especially near the ends and corners. A drop of glue on the back of the trim before nailing also helps stabilize it.

## Need help? We're here.

Call us at 1-513-871-8907, Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm ET. Our team can ship replacement parts, walk you through tricky assembly steps, or help you decide whether a piece is field-fixable or needs a swap.

[peasedoors.com](https://www.peasedoors.com)