

## How to measure and survey your bifold doors...

Fail to prepare and prepare to fail - this really is the case with your bifold doors. One of the most important things you can do when installing bifold doors is to correctly measure your opening. It sounds easy enough, however, there's actually a lot more required and you certainly can't just get the job done with measuring tape and a pencil. Get the measurements wrong and your doors could be too short, too long, or interfere with your threshold.

This guide to measuring your external bifold doors, along with our surveying guide, is here to help you get the most accurate results, so you know what size bifold doors to order.

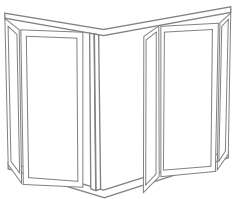
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## Things you'll need...

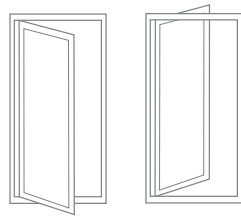
▶ Laser level ▶ Tripod ▶ Tape measure ▶ Survey guide ▶ Clipboard ▶ Pen/pencil

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## Things to consider...



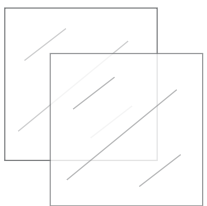
Bifold door configuration



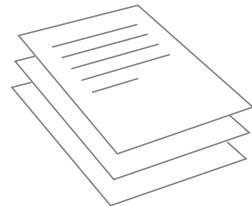
Will the doors open inwards or outwards (is there anything obstructing either configuration?)



Internal and external finished floor levels



Glass types



Documentation for pulling a permit



Door color

## Measuring your Rough Opening...



It sounds obvious, but your Rough Opening will need to be the smallest rectangle you can measure that is level, square and plumb.

While you assess the Rough Opening, make sure that the opening is structurally sound on all four sides i.e that the header can support itself without deflecting and that the walls are solid.

Without accurate measurements of your opening, it's going to be impossible to achieve an accurate survey and you could risk ordering the wrong size bifold doors, which in turn could be costly. The best way to get this dimension is by using a laser level and/or laser measure but a traditional tape measure and level can work too if used with precision.

A popular detail is to have a “flush” finish from the inside to outside or flush from inside to a step down to the exterior. While this is understandably desirable, it is important to account for some important factors regarding measuring and water management:

### **Measuring for a flush finish**

More often than not, in order to create the “flush” finish, the professional who is creating the opening will recess or “dap out” a cut-out in the ground to drop the track into so that it only shows a minimal threshold height. The track is 2 inches high, but it will

be important to take into account that shims may be needed (which will lift the track up in areas) and that if the track drops in too far the doors will drag on the ground or may not open at all.

With all the above considerations, it is vital to measure from the bottom of the recess to the underside of the header NOT from the finished floor to the underside of the header.

### **Managing the water**

Origin doors are designed to expel water out of the bottom track through weep holes in the event that water enters the door system. Over the life of the doors, it is almost a certainty that water will find its way into the door system at some point. Consideration allowing for potential water to run-off once it has left the system via the weep holes need to be taken i.e. the water will need somewhere to drain to once it has weeped out of the bottom track.

## Tolerances...

As accurate as your measurement might be, you will need to allow some additional shim space or tolerance.  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on all four sides needs to be taken off the rough opening measurement to give you an outer-frame dimension. In other words,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " needs to be taken off the total width and total height of the rough opening measurement. If your Origin door system is slightly smaller than the opening, you can shim around it. If it is bigger than the opening, it simply won't fit.

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## Substrates and Edge Distances...

Make sure the construction of your opening is suitable to install the door system into. The Origin door system has an "outer frame" that needs to be anchored into the building securely. To anchor securely and have confidence the system will not move over time, the substrate (material you are installing into) of the opening needs to be able to securely hold the anchors, carry the weight and be sound in structure. For example, hollow block walls may not be suitable to anchor into because there is not a thick enough wall to receive the full length of the install screws.

You also need to be careful not to install outer frame anchors too close to the edge of your opening as they can bust through the front and / or weaken the opening that is trying to hold the system. For the best guidance on substrates (and what anchors are best for different materials) and edge distance and spacing, we recommend you look at our Florida Product Approval #FL22037-R1. Note: depending on your location, code may require adherence to the anchor instructions listed in #FL22037.

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## If in doubt...

Please remember, if you are not sure of anything and need assistance, please get in touch with our team either via phone, email or live chat.