

Safe Doors ● ● ● Swinging Doors (Double Acting)

Swinging doors, or double-acting doors as they are sometimes called, are hazardous because of their operating function. The double-acting door swings open in both directions, allowing forward passage through the doorway from either side of the door. Collisions with this type of door are commonplace. Injuries received from the spring-actuated back-swing of these doors are also commonplace. The possibility that parts of the body will become wedged between the door edge and the door frame is a constant safety hazard inherent in the function of a swinging door. Small children and pets are especially susceptible to this type of accident, which can prove to be disastrous.

Because of the high degree of safety hazards associated with the normal operation of double-acting, swinging doors, their use in residential housing is not recommended. In floor-plan situations which cannot be served adequately with the standard hinged door, folding doors, sliding doors, or pocket doors should be considered as preferable alternatives.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

To prevent accidents associated with double-acting (swinging) doors, the following alternatives are offered:

- The use of double-acting (swinging) doors shall be avoided in residential housing.
- If the use of normal hinged door shall be impractical from the standpoint of function, the use of folding doors, sliding doors, or pocket doors shall be considered as alternates.
- If necessary to avoid hazardous door-swing conflicts, plans shall be redrawn to eliminate the safety hazard.



Swinging doors are the cause of many residential door accidents. Small children are often the victims in swinging door accidents, as illustrated in the two cases above.

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

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