

Safe Doors ● ● ● General Information

Recent studies of the causes of home accidents showed that doors are involved in almost 25 percent of the overall total of home accidents annually. Although many of these accidents are attributable to human error on the part of the resident, a large number of these accidents can be attributed to a combination of poor planning, design, and installation. Thorough consideration of a door's intended use and physical makeup, from the safety standpoint, can significantly reduce the incidence and severity of residential door related accidents (see Chart 6, Appendix A).

Sliding glass doors, glass shower doors, and bathtub enclosures produced the majority of these accidents and also accounted for the most serious injuries, and many fatalities.

Through the efforts of prominent national groups and associations that recognize the glass door hazard, increasingly stringent specifications requiring the use of safety glass have been written. These specifications have

been adopted by many local and state governing bodies, and many building codes and standards now require this safety feature specified in the installation of glass doors. Unfortunately, in many instances these safety precautions requiring the use of safety glass have not been put into general practice. In these cases, unless homes are built to specifications conforming to minimum FHA requirements, safety glass is not used, except at the discretion of the foresighted builder, or at the specific request of the homeowner.

Other types of residential doors, including garage doors, are associated with residential accidents and injuries. Fortunately, these injuries are generally much less severe than those involving glass doors.

The following pages present ideas, alternatives, and recommendations for consideration of means by which the frequency and severity of residential door-related accidents can be reduced.

The following topics present ideas, alternatives, and recommendations for consideration of means by which the frequency and severity of residential door-related accidents can be reduced:

- MI-184 Safe Doors - Glass Doors
- MI-185 Safe Doors - Improperly Hung Doors
- MI-186 Safe Doors - Door Swing
- MI-187 Safe Doors - Swinging Doors (Double Acting)
- MI-188 Safe Doors - Sharp Frames & Hardware
- MI-189 Safe Doors - Door Closure Devices & Door Stops
- MI-190 Safe Doors - Doors, Miscellaneous
- MI-191 Safe Doors - Doorway Width & Doorway in Proximity to Stairs
- MI-192 Safe Doors - Garage Doors
- MI-193 Safety Checklist for Doors

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Terminology

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DOORS

Pre-Hung Units - A preassembled package which includes the door, hinges, knob latchset, and jambs.

Double-Acting or Swing Doors - Doors that are free to swing in two directions from the closed position.

Pocket Doors - A door that, when opened, recedes into a wall.

Before building, consult the BOCA code.

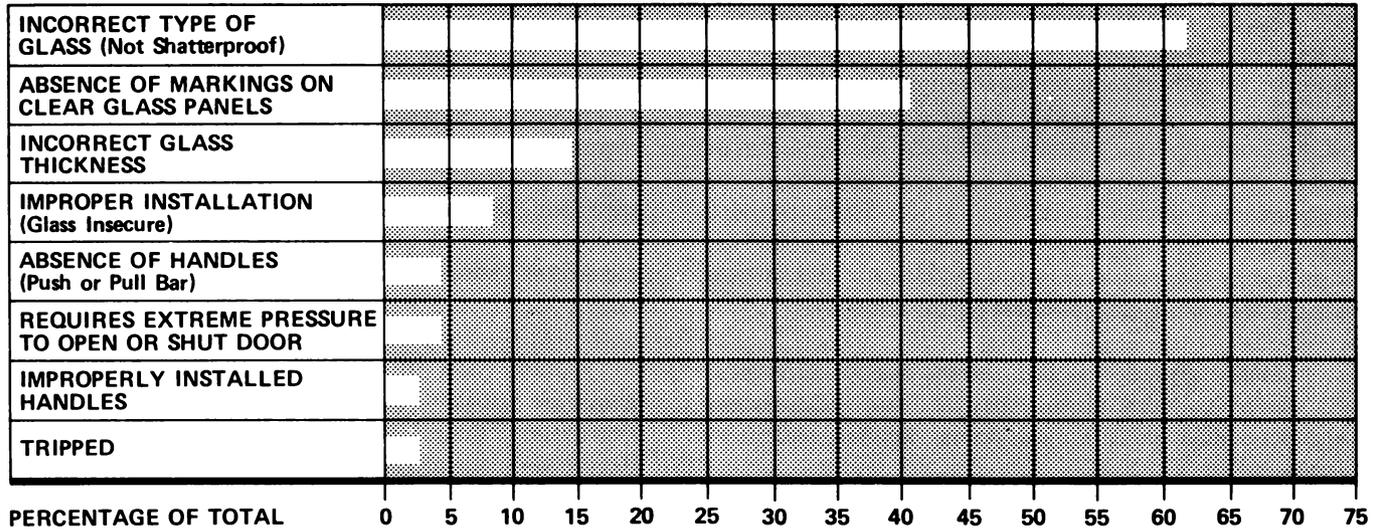
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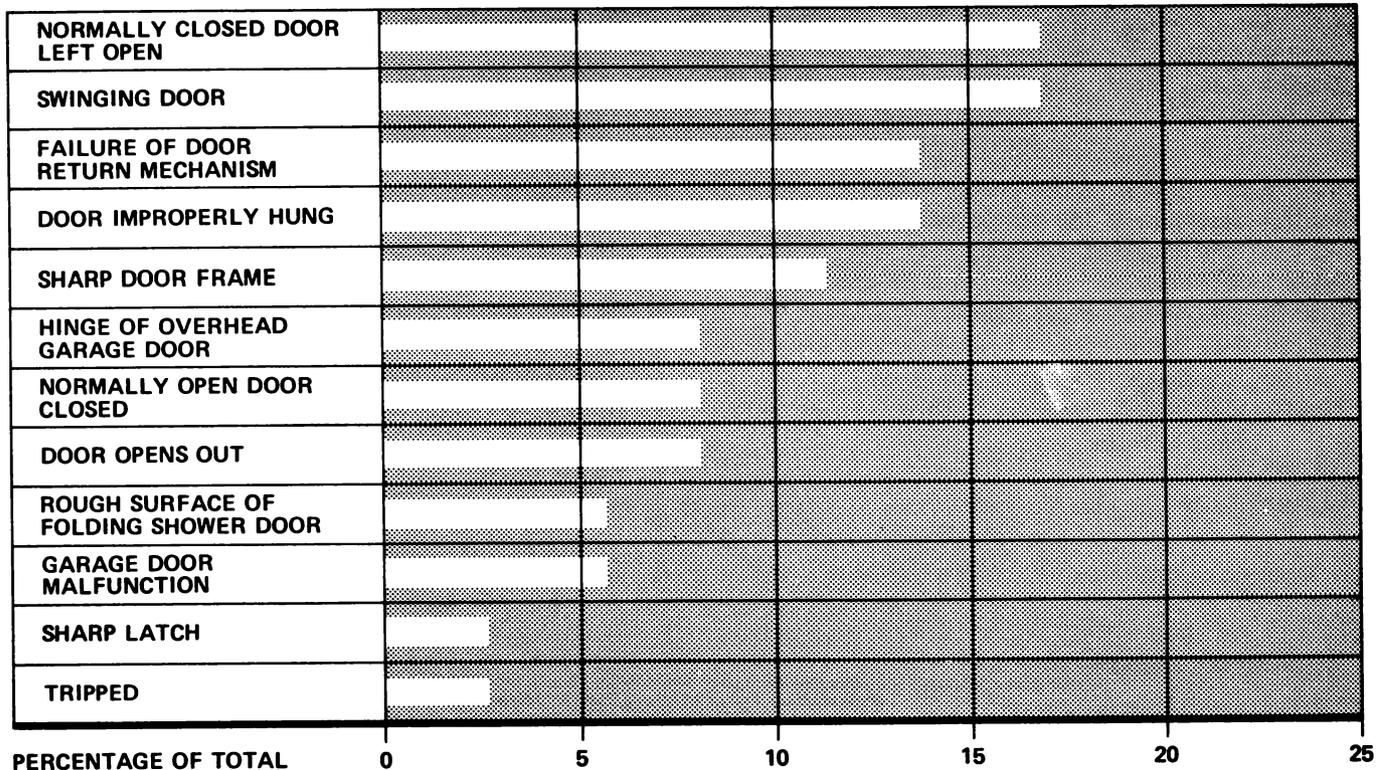
CHART 1. CAUSES IDENTIFIED WITH GLASS DOOR ACCIDENTS, EXPRESSED AS A PERCENT OF ALL GLASS DOOR ACCIDENTS REPORTED *



Source: Based on 1969 Survey, Department of Housing and Urban Development

* Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 percent because of multiple factors contributing to an accident.

CHART 2. CAUSES IDENTIFIED WITH DOORS OTHER THAN GLASS ACCIDENTS, EXPRESSED AS A PERCENT OF ALL DOORS OTHER THAN GLASS ACCIDENTS REPORTED



Source: Based on 1969 Survey, Department of Housing and Urban Development.