

Replacing Patio Doors

There are several brands of patio door on the market, almost all lighter and more energy efficient than the wooden Dashwood models installed in the Adelaide –style house of Cardinal Glen.

I have a walkout basement and I installed a Stanley brand French door with low E Argon several years ago when Beaver lumber was going out of business. Having removed the old door, I found that I have between 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch clearance all round making the installation quick and easy.

This summer, as part of an energy retrofit, I replaced the patio doors in the living area and off the master bedroom. This installation was nowhere near as easy.

I selected a brand of fibreglass door named “InLine”. These are one of the two or three most energy efficient units available and, although pricy, they are well-made in Toronto. They are low “E” Argon filled, and allow one of the lowest levels of drafts through when closed.

I decided to do my own install for these doors and, with the help of a very handy friend, completed the task in about two days.

Removing the old doors was no problem and I did this task myself. The garbage men even agreed to take the large thermo pane windows as junk although my being there to help load them might have tipped the scales in my favour.

Warning - In the living area, the rough opening for the door was too low resulting in my having to whittle and chip away at the upper beam to increase the height by about 1/2 inch.

Warning - In the master bedroom, the bottom deck boards had to be removed and trimmed to shape to allow the door to be set into place.

I was able to reuse the flashing installed a few years ago by Nu Look and I was also able to reuse the interior mouldings although I did have to sculpt a bit since the InLine doors are about 1 inch wider than the former Dashwood doors.

With the use of expanding foam as insulation filler, and coloured caulking, I was able to set the doors into place with an airtight fit.

The doors contributed at least half of my overall draft reduction as tested before and after the energy retrofit adjustments. They are also much easier to move and should last for many, many years.