## When A Door Won't Latch, The Frame Is Often The Real Problem

When a door starts sticking, binding, or bouncing off the strike plate, the issue is often in the house around it, not only in the slab, slab edge, or slab itself.

In North Texas, the most common causes are foundation movement, seasonal swelling in wood trim and doors, sagging hinges, and hardware that has drifted out of alignment.

That is why the fix is not always as simple as shaving a door edge or forcing the latch harder.

An experienced door replacement company can confirm the cause with a quick inspection.

### Why Doors Stop Closing Properly

Most sticking doors are a fit problem, not a total failure.

These are the causes that show up again and again in Dallas TX door replacement local homes:

* Foundation movement that racks the frame out of square

- Humid weather that makes wood swell and edges rub
- Loose hinge screws that allow the door to drop on one side
- Strike hardware that has drifted or was never aligned properly
- Weatherstripping that is too bulky, worn, or compressed unevenly

When a door drags at the top on the latch side, the frame may have settled out of square.

If it rubs at the bottom on the latch side, hinge sag or a swollen slab is more likely.

And if the handle turns but the latch will not catch, the strike plate may need a small adjustment, or the door may have moved enough that the bolt no longer reaches cleanly.

## How Climate And Soil Movement Create Door Problems

North Texas is hard on door openings because the region puts houses through repeated expansion and contraction cycles.

During dry stretches, the clay soil below the foundation shrinks and can let sections of the house move differently.

A door that feels worse in one season than another is often reacting to foundation and humidity changes together.

Wood doors and wood jambs also absorb moisture from humid air, especially around entryways that get afternoon sun or little airflow.

Paint can make the issue worse as well.

This is why the problem often changes with the season.

## What To Check When A Door Will Not Latch

Before you plan a repair, it helps to see where the contact point actually is.

Look for the exact place where the door first touches the jamb or trim.

An uneven gap is usually a frame clue, not just a door flaw.

If the door swings freely until the last inch or two, the latch hardware or sealing may be the problem.

Shiny scrape marks often show exactly where the door has been touching.

A screw that turns loosely, strips out, or never tightens properly can let the door drop far enough to affect the latch.

Small misalignment at the strike can create a big nuisance at the handle.

## What Usually Fixes It, And When Replacement Makes More Sense

A sticky door does not automatically mean the whole assembly has to go.

Typical repairs include tightening hinge screws, moving the strike plate, trimming compressed weatherstripping, and easing a small amount from the door edge.

Sometimes the sticking is just the visible sign of a larger problem.

Replacement becomes the better option when the slab has warped, the jamb has shifted too far, moisture has damaged the door, or alignment problems keep returning after repairs.

That is especially true for older exterior doors that have swollen, cracked, or lost their seal at the edges.

For homeowners already dealing with drafts, daylight around the edge, or soft spots in the slab, replacement may be the smarter long-term spend.

The best choice is not always the cheapest one today. It is the one that keeps the door closing cleanly after the next season change.