FITTING GUIDE · SLIDING PATIO DOORS

How to Install Aluminium Sliding Patio Doors

Aluminium sliding doors give you big panes of glass and slim sightlines, and they are very forgiving to live with – but only if the bottom track goes in perfectly level. This guide takes you through fitting SOVU aluminium sliding patio doors bought supply-only.

Before you start: doors and large glazed units are heavy, and fitting them involves working at the structure of your home. These guides are written so you know what a good installation looks like. If you are not confident, use a competent builder or installer. Replacement doors and windows in England and Wales must meet Building Regulations, which is usually shown by using a FENSA or CERTASS registered installer or by notifying your local building control.

Measuring for a sliding patio door

Measure the width and height of the opening in three places each and use the smallest figures. Check the diagonals to see if it is square. Order a frame 10–15mm smaller than the opening on both width and height so it can be packed and sealed. Remember the overall height is measured from the bottom of the cill, not from the finished floor, so think about your floor finish before you order. Our measuring guide covers this in more detail.

What you will need

- A long spirit level and tape measure
- A hammer drill, bits and suitable frame fixings
- A 5mm Allen key for the frame cleats and for adjusting the wheels
- Exterior silicone and a glass bonding sealant (supplied for the interlock)
- Assorted frame and glazing packers, a glazing paddle and gasket shears
- Glass suckers and at least two people – sliding panels are large and heavy

1. Fit the sub-cill

Fit any sub-cill first so it overhangs the wall by at least 25mm. Seal the ends, fit the end caps, level it on packers and fix it through the thermal break about 150mm from each end and at around 500mm centres, with silicone in each hole.

2. Fit the outer frame

Lift the frame into the opening with the drainage facing outside. Level the bottom track perfectly – the sashes run on it, so any dip or twist will show up as a door that rolls open or closed on its own. Pack under the track along its length so it cannot flex when the door slides.

Fix the frame no closer than 150mm to the corners and no more than 650mm apart, with fixings going at least 30mm into the structure. Screw into the aluminium rather than the plastic thermal break; where you meet the polyamide, pack behind it. Stagger fixings in a zig-zag where you can, and make sure the head is not carrying any load from the building.

3. Hang the sashes

Fit the jamb and bottom cover strips and the wind seal kits. Lift the sliding sash in by locating the top into the top groove first, then swinging the bottom over the running gear. Fit the fixed sash the same way and screw it in place. Adjust the wheels with an Allen key until the sliding sash runs level and meets the frame evenly.

4. Test drainage, then glaze

Pour a little water slowly into the track and sashes and check it drains away. Then glaze using support packers under the glass, set in about a tenth of the glass length from each corner, inside the wheel positions. On the interlock side, the glass is bonded with the structural sealant supplied. Clip the beads back in and fit the door stop so the handle stops a hand's width from the interlock.

5. Final checks

- The door should slide with light pressure and stay where you leave it.
- Locks should engage without forcing.
- Seal the frame inside and out, and clean the track.

Frequently asked questions

How level does a sliding door track need to be?

Dead level, along its whole length. Pack under the track so it is supported everywhere – a sliding door that is out of level will drift open or closed on its own.

How far apart should sliding door frame fixings be?

No closer than 150mm to the corners and no more than 650mm apart, with each fixing going at least 30mm into the wall.

How big can an aluminium sliding door panel be?

Each sliding sash in our aluminium sliding range can be up to 2200mm wide and 3000mm high, and weigh up to 240kg, depending on the layout and glass.

Can I adjust a sliding door after fitting?

Yes. The wheels adjust with an Allen key so you can raise or lower each sash until it runs level and closes evenly.

Ready to choose your sliding doors?

See prices for standard sizes, or design an exact size online.

Questions about your order or fitting? Call 01924 929600 or visit sovu.co.uk/contact. This guide is online at sovu.co.uk/help-and-guides/how-to-install-aluminium-sliding-patio-doors/