

HOW TO Replace Exterior Door Weatherstripping

Cost: \$5-\$15

Time required: 10 minutes

Supplies: kerf-in weatherstripping

Tools: pliers and a utility knife or scissors

Difficulty: easy-peasy



Kerf-in weatherstripping



Weatherstripping fin installed into the kerf

Replacing Kerf-In Weatherstripping on Exterior Doors

The weatherstripping on most of the original Eastview exterior doors is kerf-installed clad foam compression weatherstripping. It is an effective, long lasting weatherstripping. It is much easier to replace than adhesive or nail-on weatherstripping.

The “kerf” is a slot cut along the wooden door frame into which you press a plastic fin that is embedded along the edge of the weatherstrip. A small nub on the plastic fin holds the weatherstripping securely without adhesives, nails or staples. Properly installed, it won’t buckle or bulge, creating a firm, lasting seal around the top and sides of the door.

Purchase enough to replace the full length of the strip that needs replacing. Home Depot carries a length sufficient for one side for around \$5. To replace all three sides of one door requires three pieces. Or order directly from Q-lon. <http://q-lon.net/>

Step-by-step

- Notice which direction the weatherstripping is facing to install the new weatherstripping the same way.
- If the weatherstripping is kerf-installed, a few firm tugs with vise-grip pliers or needle nose pliers will easily remove an entire side of weatherstripping in one piece. If there is no kerf, use adhesive style weatherstripping.
- If you are replacing all three sides, place the side pieces first, then the top piece.
- Use the old weatherstripping you removed to rough measure the new pieces. Cut with sharp scissors or utility knife. Test fit and trim if necessary.
- Slide the plastic fin of each side piece into the top of the kerf. Starting at a that edge, press firmly along the length every couple inches to seat.
- For a tidy job, before installing the top piece, trim wedges of rubber in the corners to match the miters in the old weatherstripping.
- Close your door to test the fit.