

Sliding Patio Door Buying Guide for Canadian Homes

Glass Specification

Triple-pane glass with argon fill is the standard for Canadian climates. Look for a U-factor below 1.0 W/m²K and a low-e coating on at least one surface.

Frame Material

Fibreglass frames have the best insulation value and handle freeze-thaw cycles without warping. Vinyl is a reasonable mid-range choice. Aluminum needs a proper thermal break.

Weatherstripping Quality

Cheap brush-pile weatherstripping degrades within a few years. Look for dual-fin or pile-with-fin designs that maintain contact under pressure.

Operating Side

The operating panel typically slides in front of the fixed panel. Decide which side gives you better traffic flow before ordering.

Security Bar

A steel security bar or auxiliary floor bolt adds a critical layer of protection that most standard sliding door locks lack.

Sill Track Design

Low-profile tracks reduce the trip hazard and are easier to clean. Self-draining sill designs prevent ice buildup in winter.