Door Movement Diagnostic Checklist

What to log and check before you call a technician

What to log over a couple of days

1. **When it happens**
   Note the time, the weather, and whether another door or window was opened just before.
2. **Which direction it moves**
   Note whether the door swings open, swings shut, or does both depending on the day.
3. **How much force is involved**
   A slow drift and a hard slam usually point toward different causes.

What to check yourself

1. **Top hinge screws**
   Check whether they are snug or spin loosely in the wood.
2. **Gap consistency around the door**
   Run a hand along all four sides and note if one side is noticeably tighter than the others.
3. **Weatherstripping condition**
   Worn or compressed weatherstripping can change how much a door reacts to airflow.

Questions to ask a technician

1. **Is this hardware or the frame itself**
   Ask which one they believe is driving the movement before any repair starts.
2. **Can this be adjusted or does it need replacing**
   Ask whether shimming or hardware adjustment is realistic for your specific door.
3. **What would you check first on a visit**
   Ask what they plan to look at so you know what the visit will cover.

Log the pattern, check the hinges and gaps, then compare notes with a technician.

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