Cold-Weather Door Checklist

What to look at, what to ask, what to watch for

Before You Choose a Door

1. **Ask about the core**
   Find out what the core is made of and ask for the spec sheet for that exact door.
2. **Ask about the rating**
   Ask the supplier to explain the heat-loss rating for the door and its glass.
3. **Look at the seals**
   Check the type of weatherstripping and whether it can be adjusted or replaced.
4. **Look at the threshold**
   Ask how the bottom of the door seals and what can be adjusted later.

Questions for the Installer

1. **How is the door set?**
   Ask how the door is set square and checked before the job is finished.
2. **How is the frame sealed?**
   Ask how the gap around the frame is insulated and sealed.
3. **Who do I call later?**
   Ask who handles adjustments if the door sticks after its first winter.

Watch Through the Winter

1. **Frost patches inside**
   Note where they appear and take a photo.
2. **Drafts at the edges**
   Hold the back of your hand near the edges and the bottom on a windy day.
3. **A door that sticks or won't latch**
   Ask a qualified installer to look at it.
4. **Water at the threshold**
   Wipe it up and note whether it returns.

Keep this page handy through the cold months.

www.northshield.ca/free-estimate/

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