

The Door Transom Checklist

Measure, choose, and budget before you call for a quote

Step 1 - Measure your opening

1 Door-to-ceiling band

Measure from the top of your door to the ceiling or soffit. You want 12 inches or more of usable height for a proportioned transom.

2 Door width

Note the door width and whether sidelights are present, since a system transom spans the whole entry.

Step 2 - Check the structure

1 Load-bearing wall?

If the wall above the door carries load, a retrofit needs an engineered header and may require a permit.

2 Permit check

Confirm permit rules with your GTA municipality before enlarging any opening.

Step 3 - Choose your glass

1 Clear

Maximum daylight; private enough at transom height for most homes.

2 Frosted or reeded

Light without any sightline concern.

3 Decorative or leaded

Adds character and works well over a coloured or modern door.

Step 4 - Budget the project

1 With a new door

Roughly \$400 to \$1,500 added in the GTA for 2026.

2 Retrofit

Roughly \$2,000 to \$5,000+ once framing and a header are involved.

Planning new windows or a front door in Toronto and the GTA? We can help.

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