Buying a Door for a Sun-Exposed Opening

Questions to ask your installer before you choose

Questions about the door itself

1. **Ask what core material the door uses**
   Foam, composite, or engineered lumber cores behave differently. Get it named, not just 'fiberglass'.
2. **Ask which finish system the manufacturer specifies**
   Paint and stain systems vary by product line, and using the wrong one can affect how the finish holds up in direct sun.
3. **Ask about the refinishing interval for your exposure**
   A west-facing door and a shaded north-facing door are not the same maintenance schedule.

Questions about the installation

1. **Ask what the jamb and threshold are made from**
   A wood jamb can move seasonally even when the slab itself is fiberglass. Ask how the frame is protected.
2. **Ask how the hinges are reinforced**
   Heavier doors put more load on hinge screws. Ask what reinforcement the installer uses on your opening.
3. **Ask what the weatherstripping is rated for**
   Ask how long the seal is expected to perform under full sun before it needs replacing.

Questions about the warranty

1. **Ask what the warranty covers on the core versus the finish**
   These are often covered differently. Get it in writing before you sign.
2. **Ask what would void the warranty**
   Some warranties require using an approved finish system. Ask before you repaint the door yourself.
3. **Ask how to document a problem if one appears**
   Photos and a dated note make any warranty claim faster to process.

Bring these questions to your installer before you choose a door.

aldawindows.com/free-estimate/

This guide is general information, not professional advice. Requirements, products, and site conditions vary by property and change over time. Confirm the details that apply to your project with a qualified professional before you decide. ALDA Windows and Doors is not responsible for decisions made solely on the basis of this guide.