

## Decorative Glass for Front Doors: Quick Reference

Privacy levels, light transmission, and styling at a glance

### How to choose decorative glass for your entry door

#### 1 Decide your priority first: light, privacy, or style

Most homeowners want all three but the right answer depends on which side of the home the door faces and how close the porch is to the sidewalk.

#### 2 Map your privacy needs by layout

If the door faces a busy street, lean toward heavily textured, frosted, or leaded glass. If the porch is set back behind landscaping, you can use clearer glass.

#### 3 Check light direction across the day

A north-facing door can take darker textured glass without losing the entry's brightness. A south or west door benefits from lighter glass to avoid harsh glare.

#### 4 Match the glass shape to the door style

Rectangular inserts suit transitional and modern doors. Arched and oval shapes lean traditional or Victorian.

#### 5 Consider the coming finish

Brass coming reads warm and traditional. Black and pewter coming read modern. Coming color is a design lever, not a structural one.

#### 6 Coordinate with sidelite and transom glass

If you have sidelites or a transom, the decorative pattern should be the same family across all glass openings. Mixing patterns looks unfinished.

#### 7 Verify the glass is tempered or laminated

Decorative glass in an entry door should still meet impact safety standards. A pure decorative pane that breaks on impact is a code issue and a liability.

#### 8 Ask about insulation glass build-up

A decorative insert can still be triple-glazed with low-E coatings between panes. Confirm it is not a single decorative pane in the door.

#### 9 Check for a hinged interior pane (privacy glass)

Some inserts include a hinged interior shade that lets you switch between full transparency and full privacy.

#### 10 Plan for cleaning access

Heavily leaded or stained glass collects dust in the coming joints. Confirm you can wipe both faces of the insert without disassembling the door.

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