Replacing a door sounds straightforward until you are standing in front of a wall of options at the hardware store trying to remember whether the opening you measured was the rough opening, the frame opening, or the door slab itself. Door sizing has enough terminology and unit variation to trip up even experienced DIYers, and getting it wrong means a door that will not fit, a return trip to the store, and a project that takes twice as long as it should.

This guide removes all of that confusion. Whether you need the standard door width in inches for a US interior door, the standard size in mm for a UK or European specification, or you are trying to figure out whether a 28-inch door is too narrow or a 42-inch door is a real product, the answers are here in one place.

What Is the Standard Door Width?

The standard door width for an interior residential door in the United States is 32 inches. This is the width of the door slab itself, the actual panel that swings in the frame. It is the most common width for bedroom doors, bathroom doors, closet doors, and other interior passage doors in American homes built over the last several decades.

However, 32 inches is not the only standard, and the word standard is used loosely enough in the door industry to create genuine confusion. The practical range of commonly stocked interior door widths runs from 24 inches to 36 inches, with 28, 30, 32, and 36 inches being the most widely available sizes at home improvement retailers. Exterior doors most commonly come in 32-inch and 36-inch widths, with 36 inches being the more prevalent choice for main entry doors.

The reason multiple widths are described as standard is that different applications have different requirements. A bathroom door does not need the same width as a front entry door. A closet door serves different functional requirements than a bedroom door. Code requirements, ADA accessibility standards, and practical ergonomics each point toward different minimum widths depending on what the door is for.

Standard Door Width by Application

Understanding which width applies to which door type resolves most of the confusion around door sizing.

Interior Passage Doors

Interior passage doors, covering bedrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and most rooms in a residential building, are most commonly available in the following widths:

Door Width (Inches)	Door Width (cm)	Door Width (mm)	Common Use
24 inches	61 cm	610 mm	Narrow closets, utility spaces
28 inches	71 cm	710 mm	Small bathrooms, secondary spaces
30 inches	76 cm	762 mm	Standard bathrooms, secondary bedrooms
32 inches	81 cm	813 mm	Most common interior door
36 inches	91.5 cm	914 mm	Accessible doorways, wide passage

The 32-inch interior door is the most widely stocked size at major retailers and represents the practical default for most residential interior applications. A 30-inch door is a common choice for bathroom and secondary bedroom doorways where space is limited. Doors narrower than 28 inches are increasingly uncommon in new construction because of accessibility considerations discussed below.

Exterior and Entry Doors

Exterior doors face different requirements from interior doors. They need to accommodate furniture moving, provide accessible entry, and in many cases meet specific energy performance specifications that influence their frame and threshold design.

Door Width (Inches)	Door Width (cm)	Common Use
32 inches	81 cm	Secondary exterior doors, side entries
36 inches	91.5 cm	Primary entry doors, most common
42 inches	106.5 cm	Double-wide single entries, accessible
60 inches	152 cm	Double door pairs (two 30-inch panels)
72 inches	183 cm	Double door pairs (two 36-inch panels)

The 36-inch exterior entry door is the most common choice for primary entry doors

in US residential construction. It provides adequate clearance for furniture, appliance delivery, and accessible entry without requiring structural modifications to a standard rough opening.

Garage Doors

Garage doors follow a different sizing convention from interior and exterior passage doors. Single-car garage doors are most commonly 8 feet wide by 7 or 8 feet tall. Two-car garage doors are typically 16 feet wide by 7 or 8 feet tall. These are supplied as complete door systems rather than slabs fitted into frames.

Standard Door Width in Different Units

Door widths are specified in different units depending on the country and the trade involved. Here is a complete conversion reference for the most common standard door widths.

Standard Door Width in Inches and Feet

Inches	Feet
24 inches	2 feet 0 inches
28 inches	2 feet 4 inches
30 inches	2 feet 6 inches
32 inches	2 feet 8 inches
36 inches	3 feet 0 inches
42 inches	3 feet 6 inches

In the US market, doors are almost always specified and sold in inches. The nominal inch dimension of a door refers to the actual slab width. A 36-inch door is genuinely 36 inches wide at the slab.

Standard Door Width in cm and mm

Inches	Centimeters	Millimeters
24 inches	61 cm	610 mm
28 inches	71 cm	711 mm
30 inches	76 cm	762 mm

Inches	Centimeters	Millimeters
32 inches	81 cm	813 mm
36 inches	91.5 cm	914 mm
42 inches	106.5 cm	1067 mm

Standard Door Width in Meters

Inches	Meters
24 inches	0.61 m
28 inches	0.71 m
30 inches	0.76 m
32 inches	0.81 m
36 inches	0.91 m
42 inches	1.07 m

UK and European Standard Door Widths

In the United Kingdom and much of Europe, door sizes are specified in metric dimensions and follow a different set of standards from US practice. The most common UK standard door widths are:

- **686 mm (approximately 27 inches):** Standard UK internal door width for many existing homes
- **762 mm (approximately 30 inches):** Common UK internal door, particularly in newer construction
- **838 mm (approximately 33 inches):** Wider UK internal door, used in accessible applications
- **914 mm (approximately 36 inches):** UK external door standard width

European door sizes vary by country and manufacturer but commonly follow metric increments of 600 mm, 700 mm, 800 mm, 900 mm, and 1000 mm for single-leaf doors.

Standard Door Height

Door width discussions are incomplete without addressing height, since doors are always specified as width-by-height pairs.

The standard door height in the United States is 80 inches, or 6 feet 8 inches. This applies to both interior and most exterior residential doors. In metric terms, this is approximately 203 cm or 2,032 mm.

Non-standard heights are available for specific applications. 84-inch (7-foot) doors suit homes with 9-foot ceilings where an 80-inch door would look proportionally short. 96-inch (8-foot) doors are used in luxury residential construction and commercial applications where ceiling heights and design intent call for taller openings.

Standard Door Height in Different Units

Standard Height	Inches	cm	mm	Meters
Standard US residential	80 inches	203 cm	2032 mm	2.03 m
Tall residential	84 inches	213 cm	2134 mm	2.13 m
Extra tall / commercial	96 inches	244 cm	2438 mm	2.44 m
UK standard internal	approx. 78 inches	198 cm	1981 mm	1.98 m

Is a 36-Inch Door Actually 36 Inches Wide?

Yes. Unlike lumber, where nominal dimensions differ from actual dimensions — a 2×4 is not actually 2 inches by 4 inches — door dimensions are actual dimensions. A 36-inch door slab measures 36 inches across its face. This is a common point of confusion for people familiar with lumber sizing conventions who assume the same nominal-vs-actual gap applies to doors.

What does change between the slab dimension and the installed opening is the rough opening size. The rough opening in the wall framing must be larger than the door slab to accommodate the door frame, shimming, and clearance for operation. As a general rule, the rough opening should be 2 inches wider and 2 to 2.5 inches taller than the door slab. A 36-inch door therefore requires a rough opening of approximately 38 inches wide by 82 to 82.5 inches tall.

This distinction matters practically when you are ordering a replacement door for an existing opening. Measure the existing door slab width directly, not the rough opening or the frame opening. The slab measurement is what you specify when ordering the new door.

Is a 28-Inch Door Too Small?

A 28-inch door is narrow by modern residential standards but not unusable in the right application. For a bathroom door or a secondary closet, 28 inches is functional for most adults. For a bedroom door that needs to accommodate wheelchair access or is required to meet accessibility guidelines, 28 inches is insufficient.

The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires a minimum clear opening width of 32 inches for accessible doorways. Clear opening width is the distance between the face of the door when open at 90 degrees and the door stop on the opposite side of the frame. Achieving a 32-inch clear opening typically requires a 34-inch or 36-inch door slab, depending on the door thickness and hinge configuration.

For new residential construction, the Fair Housing Act requires accessible design in multi-family buildings that includes doors with a minimum 32-inch clear opening in accessible routes. Single-family homes are not subject to the same mandatory accessible design requirements, but building a home with doors no narrower than 32-inch slabs throughout is considered good practice and future-proofs the home for aging in place.

For renovation projects specifically, a 28-inch door that needs replacement should be evaluated for whether upsizing to 30 or 32 inches is feasible within the existing rough opening. In many cases, the existing rough opening can accommodate a wider door with minimal modification, and the cost difference between a 28-inch and 32-inch door slab is negligible.

Is 42 Inches a Standard Door Width?

A 42-inch door is not a commonly stocked standard width at most residential retailers but is available as a special order in many door lines. It occupies a position between the 36-inch standard and the 48-inch double-door territory, making it a practical choice for accessible entries where a 36-inch door does not provide adequate clear opening width.

In commercial construction, 42-inch doors are more common and better supported by the supply chain. Commercial door hardware, frames, and slabs in 42-inch widths are stocked by commercial door suppliers where residential retailers may only offer them by order.

For residential applications, a 42-inch single door is sometimes specified for accessible entry doors where ADA-compliant clear opening widths must be achieved, or for utility and service entries where large equipment or furniture regularly passes through. A 42-inch door requires a rough opening of approximately 44 inches wide, which may require header modifications in an existing wall depending on the structural configuration.

Door Width and ADA Accessibility Standards

ADA accessibility standards represent the most important regulatory framework for door width decisions in any building that serves the public or must comply with accessible design requirements.

The ADA requires a minimum clear opening width of 32 inches for accessible doorways in single-leaf door applications and 48 inches for double-leaf door assemblies. Achieving these clear opening dimensions requires:

- A 34-inch or 36-inch door slab for a 32-inch clear opening (exact requirement depends on hinge and door thickness)
- Lever or push/pull hardware rather than round knobs, which require gripping ability that not all users have
- Threshold heights that do not exceed half an inch for horizontal thresholds or three-quarters of an inch for beveled thresholds

Residential building codes increasingly incorporate accessibility provisions from the Fair Housing Act and universal design principles, even for single-family homes, which is driving the gradual shift toward wider standard door widths in new construction across the industry.

Fitting Tips: Measuring Correctly for a New Door

Getting the right door width starts with measuring correctly. Follow these steps to avoid the most common sizing mistakes.

Measure the door slab, not the frame. Remove any existing door and measure the slab width directly. This is the number you need when ordering a replacement door.

Check the rough opening. If you are installing a door in a new or modified

opening, confirm the rough opening dimensions before ordering. The rough opening should be 2 inches wider and 2 to 2.5 inches taller than the door slab you intend to install.

Account for floor clearance. The bottom of the door slab needs clearance above the finished floor to swing freely. This clearance requirement affects the door height specification. Standard practice is three-quarters of an inch of clearance above a hard floor surface.

Verify handing. Door handing refers to which side the hinges are on and which direction the door swings. Specify left-hand or right-hand swing when ordering pre-hung door assemblies. Getting the handing wrong is the most common ordering mistake on door replacement projects.

Check ceiling and header clearance. In older homes with settled floors or non-standard ceiling heights, verify that a standard 80-inch door will fit without requiring header modification before ordering.

For more practical guidance on home improvement projects including door and window installation, renovation planning, and specification decisions, the home improvement section at Home Narratives provides detailed, actionable advice across every major project type.

The National Association of Home Builders door sizing and accessibility guide provides authoritative guidance on residential door standards, accessible design requirements, and construction best practices for door installations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is a 36-inch door actually 36 inches wide?

Yes. Door dimensions, unlike lumber dimensions, are actual rather than nominal. A 36-inch door slab measures exactly 36 inches across its face. The rough opening in the wall framing must be larger than this to accommodate the frame, shimming, and operating clearance — typically 38 inches wide for a 36-inch door — but the door slab itself is the dimension it is sold as.

Is a 28-inch door too small?

A 28-inch door is functional for bathroom and secondary closet applications but is narrower than current best practice for most interior doors. It does not meet ADA accessible design requirements, which specify a minimum 32-inch clear opening. For bedroom doors and any doorway on an accessible route, 30 to 32 inches is the recommended minimum. For renovation projects, consider upsizing to 30 or 32 inches if the rough opening permits, as the cost difference is small and the functional improvement is meaningful.

What is the standard door width?

The standard interior door width in the United States is 32 inches for most residential applications. The standard exterior entry door width is 36 inches. In the UK, the most common internal door widths are 686 mm and 762 mm. These are the most widely stocked sizes at major retailers, though doors are available in widths from 24 inches to 42 inches and beyond for specific applications.

Is 42 inches a standard door width?

A 42-inch door is not a standard stock size at most residential retailers, but is available by special order from most door manufacturers. It is more commonly stocked in commercial door supply channels. Residentially, a 42-inch door is appropriate for accessible entry applications where a 36-inch door does not provide sufficient clear opening width, and for utility or service entries where large equipment or furniture regularly passes through.

Door sizing is one of those topics where a little clarity goes a long way. The standard door width of 32 inches for interior doors and 36 inches for exterior entry doors covers the vast majority of residential applications. Understanding the distinction between slab width, rough opening, and clear opening width prevents the most common ordering and installation mistakes. And recognizing where accessibility requirements push toward wider openings future-proofs your home in ways that pay dividends whether or not accessibility is an immediate need.

What type of door are you sizing for, and are you working with an existing opening or specifying a new one? The answer to that shapes every measurement decision that follows.