



SafeGUARD
WINDOW & DOOR SYSTEMS

AFTERCARE GUIDE FOR YOUR
bifold door



Easy to live with, simple to care for

The Safeguard bifold doors have been developed to be very easy to live with and simple to care for.

We've chosen materials that are durable and systems that are reliable. A tiny bit of periodic care should be all you need to preserve those initial stunning looks and ensure decades of trouble-free operation.

This guide is simplicity itself, but if at any time you'd like our advice, you can get in touch. Your installer is the best source of practical support and should be your first port of call if you have any issue that this guide doesn't help you to solve.

Operation

A quick word about handles

Bifold doors have two main types of handle:

- ☆ A lever-type handle to secure the main traffic door, operated using a key.
- ☆ Handles which operate the shootbolts on the individual door leaves. Depending on the design used by your installer these lift and turn to operate the shootbolt mechanism.

Some bifold doors also have handles with no locking function which help to slide and position the folding leaves when opening and closing the doors.

Note that:

- ☆ Shootbolt handles must be in the correct position before opening the doors.
- ☆ Shootbolt handle must never be used to pull the door open. Always use the D Handle.



Lever-type handle



Open-In D Handle



Shootbolt Handle

Opening

Let's take things step by step:

Insert the key into the main traffic door, turn 360° and remove from the lock.

Fully open the door and attach it to the magnetic keep (main traffic door should remain connected to the magnetic keep at all times while doors are open).

Use the slave handles to release door panels by rotating 180°.

For open indoors, pull the D Handle inwards and guide the doors along the track. For open outdoors, push the frame above the slave handle and open doors fully.

For the maximum clear opening, ensure that all the folding leaves are stacked neatly together.

Closing

Hold the second and third panels and walk them along the track. The rollers will guide them into the correct position.

For outward opening doors pull the D handle (if fitted) inwards. For an inwards opening model push the doors outwards.

Once the folding leaves are correctly positioned, secure each of them using the shootbolt handles.

Finally release the traffic door from its magnetic keeps, close it and lift the handle to operate the mechanism. Insert the key to lock the door.

Aftercare

You won't need much, just:



Soap and water



Some soft cloths



A vacuum cleaner



Window cleaner spray

Optional extras

☆ **A squeegee**

Ideal for cleaning the exterior glass if you don't have a window cleaner.

☆ **Silicone spray**

Just the job to keep rollers running smoothly.

☆ **Magic eraser sponges**

Great for tackling stubborn marks on the frame.



Frequency

All bifold doors need periodic attention. In some areas, you will need to tackle the job more frequently or after certain weather events – those occasional deposits of desert sand, for example. Most people find a couple of times a year is sufficient, but if you live in a marine environment or in a highly built-up area with a lot of traffic nearby, you may find a quarterly clean is more suitable.





Step by step

☆ Frames

Wash the frames with a mild detergent solution and a soft cloth. When you're done, rinse and dry. For extra protection, you could apply a bit of wax polish. Any stubborn stains are best tackled with a magic eraser. You'll know if it's working, so don't keep scrubbing away if it isn't. Instead, ask your installer for help. If you do use a solvent, test a small area first.

☆ Gaskets

Wipe any seals down and check for damage. You can use a little smear of Vaseline as a lubricant.

☆ Glass

With children or pets in the home, smudges are almost inevitable, but they're easily cleaned with any proprietary glass cleaner. Exterior glass can be managed in the same way.

☆ Tracks

It's important to keep tracks free of debris. To clean them, run a vacuum cleaner nozzle along the track, once a month or so. While you're cleaning, check that drainage holes in the track system are clear.

☆ Locking systems and handles

You can add a little spray of light machine oil to shootbolts and to the moving parts of the locking mechanism. The frequency of application will depend on the prevailing climate where you live and how often you open the doors, but most people find that lubricating the hardware once every six months works fine. Handles should be simply washed with a mild detergent solution then rinsed and dried.

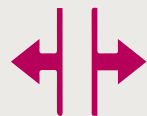
Troubleshooting

Providing you carry out routine maintenance, your bifold doors should give years of trouble-free operation, but just occasionally, there may be a problem. If the answer isn't obvious, call your installer. If you're competent with DIY tasks and think you know how to solve the issue, we'd still advise caution. It is possible that work you do could invalidate your installer's warranty.



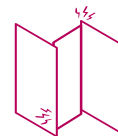
The doors won't open or close easily

The most likely culprit is something trapped within the track or roller system. If cleaning the tracks with a vacuum and adding a bit of silicon spray to the rollers doesn't free things, don't force the doors. You may cause further problems. It's better to call for expert help.



There's a gap around the doors

A gap around the doors, or a gap between the traffic door and lead door when the doors are closed, is likely to be a problem with the initial installation or as a result of settling afterwards. Bifold doors are subject to a lot of forces and some slight movement is almost inevitable. Tolerances are built into the system, but sometimes extra adjustment is required. This is a job for the experts – call your installer who should have no trouble getting the alignment spot-on again.



The doors won't stack neatly

Check that there is nothing trapped between the leaves, seals and around the hinges themselves. Make sure that the hinges are still secure, and that all other hardware slots neatly out of the way when opening.



The doors feel loose on the tracks

The individual leaves should always feel secure in their tracks. It could be a damaged track or a leaf that's come off the track. Either way, it's a job for the installer.



Broken glass or cloudy glazing units

Toughened glass is always used in bifold doors, but in extreme circumstances, breakage can occur. Replacement of the glass panels is a job for a specialist who will be able to ensure that the replacement unit matches the specification of the original and that all weatherseals are intact and effective on completion of the job.



Condensation

Condensation is unlikely to be a problem with the doors themselves. It is a natural product of water vapour in the air resulting from everyday activities such as cooking, showering and boiling the kettle. In the past, open-fires and chimneys provided the air flow required to manage condensation, but in well-insulated modern homes, the most common cause is a lack of ventilation. If it is a particular problem, try adding extra ventilation to the room, opening a window or using an extractor fan. A slight increase the room temperature will also help.



Other repairs

Most components on a door can be repaired or replaced, so don't panic if an accident happens. Your installer will be able to source and fit the replacement parts.



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