

Toeing and Heeling

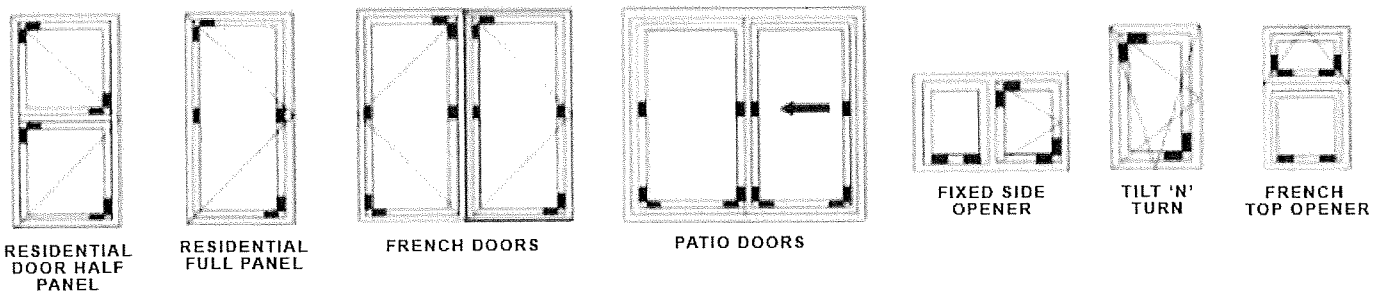
What is Toeing and Heeling and why do it anyway?

UPVC doors are heavy, and although the dead weight is supported on the hinge side when it is opened, there is nothing on the lock side to support the weight, and without the procedure of toeing and heeling the door will 'drop' on the handle side, sooner or later. To stop a door dropping the glass/panel itself has to be braced diagonally corner to corner by the insertion of plastic packers slipped in the gap between the glass/panel and frame, under the beading. On the hinge side the packers go at the bottom corner, whilst on the lock side, the packers go at the top (opposite) corner.

To explain further – picture this in your mind, look at or visualise the back of a normal wooden side gate and you will see three 'ledges,' that is the horizontal planks-one top, one middle and one bottom.

These ledges are used for the diagonal planks of wood to sit on so as to brace across and therefore to stop the gate dropping on the lock/handle side.

EXAMPLES OF WINDOWS AND DOORS AND WHERE TO HEEL AND TOE



So does my door need toeing and heeling?

When a uPVC door has 'dropped' the first thing people usually notice is that the lock is not working as easily as it did, or will not lock at all. The door may also possibly rub on the bottom as it is closed. Closer inspection may reveal that the mitred welds do not line through at the top and the bottom of the lock side of the door to its framework.

If this is the case on any door, then the door will need bringing back to square (called 'jacking' in the trade) and it will then need 'toeing and heeling' to prevent it from dropping again in the future. If you suspect that your door may have dropped, then the easiest way to check is to measure corner to corner across the diagonals of the door and verify that the measurements are near enough the same, or to

within a couple of mm or so. A quarter of an inch difference in measurements is too much!

5. Checking

Make sure all sashes open and close and have been correctly packed. Should an opener not work, then it is likely that it has been incorrectly packed. The unit must be removed, repacked and reinstalled. Failure to do this can result in locks not engaging properly, daylight being seen, a lack of weather protection and possible grating on locks or on the bottom of the sash when closing.

If you find you have any of these problems, please recheck:

- Your installed item is square in the house aperture and is not twisted in any way.
- That its diagonal measurements are equal, both the frame and any sashes.
- The frame has not been stretched by over-tightening the fixing bolts (especially in the door.)