

# TOTAL HOME

*On-Line*

Advertising Feature of The Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune

## Is it time for a new front door?

By necessity or by choice, changing the front door of your home can go a long way in updating its exterior. But before making any purchases, there are a few things you should consider.

First, take note of which side of the doorframe the hinges are on and whether the door opens to the outside or to the inside. Second, correctly measure the dimensions of the door, noting the thickness of the frame as well as the dimensions of the holes for the handle and the lock.

### HIRE A PROFESSIONAL

Once you have chosen an appropriate model, having it installed by a professional is highly recommended. A door

that isn't correctly installed will quickly lose its energy-saving efficiency and will not open and shut properly.

### READ INSTRUCTIONS

If, despite these warnings, you decide to install the door yourself, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions carefully! First, ensure the doorsill is level and properly secured to the floor. Then make sure the door itself is level. When you hammer in the carpenter's nails, does the door open and close properly? Next, ensure that the doorposts are properly supported and that the exterior molding is securely nailed to them. Don't forget to include the insulation and caulking! Next, carefully install the handle and

lock and last but not least, make sure the interior finishing is esthetically pleasing.

Once the door is installed, make sure it works properly by closing it on a sheet of paper. If you are able to easily pull the sheet out from under the closed door, you will have to readjust it.

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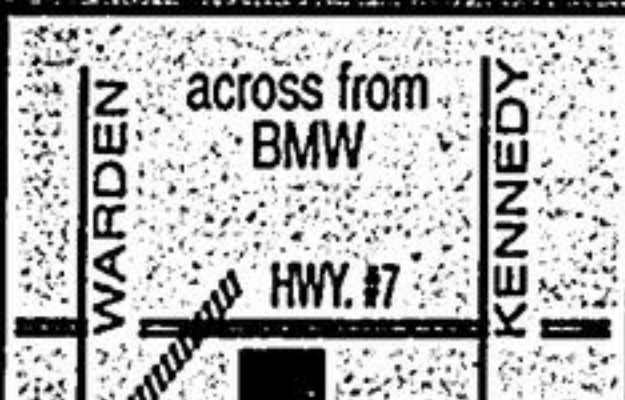
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