

How to Install Interior Door Jambs

When remodeling a room or house, one of the things you may need to do is install new door jambs. Learning the different parts of door jambs and how each is installed will help reduce the frustrations usually experienced with door jamb installation.

Things You'll Need

- 1 piece of interior door jamb (36" header)
- 2 pieces of interior door jamb (84" side legs)
- Carpenter's square
- Circular saw
- Carpenter's level
- Electric drill and bits
- Hammer
- 8d and 2d finish nails
- Shims
- Door Stop Moulding (same lengths as the door jamb pieces)

1. Cutting the Parts

1. Measure the width at the top of the door opening. Measure and mark that number on one of the 84" jamb pieces, or the pre-cut 36" piece in a 3-piece set.
2. Place the carpenter's square on that mark and draw a line across the piece of lumber. Cut the lumber with the circular saw.
3. Measure from the floor up to the top of the door opening (on each side) and subtract 3/4 inch. Measure and mark that number on the remaining 84-inch pieces of lumber and cut them to that length.

2. Installing the Jamb

1. Place the shorter piece of lumber on a table and drill four pilot holes through it. Insert one of the 8d finish nails in one of the predrilled holes, set the piece of lumber across the top of the door opening and tack it in place. Be certain to flush the edges of the lumber with the wall. Do not drive the nail all the way down.
2. Place the carpenter's level on the piece of lumber at the top of the door opening. If it is not level, place the needed door shims between the lumber and the door opening to resolve the issue.
3. Measure the width of the door that will be installed on this door jamb. Install the other two pieces of the jamb on either side of the door opening with the 8d finish nails so that it will be 1/8 inch larger than the door. When installing these two pieces, you will need to place the carpenter's level on each one to make sure they are plumb. If they are not, place door shims between the lumber and the door opening before you secure the lumber to the studs.
4. Measure 1 3/8 inches from the front edge of the door jamb and make a mark. The front edge of the door jamb is the room into which the door will open. Move your tape measure up and down the door jamb, making several of these marks. Do the same for the overhead piece of lumber.
5. Measure the space at the top between the two door jams and cut a piece of doorstop material that length. Secure it to the top door jamb at the marks you made from Step 4 with the 2d finish nails. Be certain that the flat side of the doorstop material is facing the door.
6. Measure up from the floor to the doorstop material you installed at the top of the door jamb. Cut two pieces of the doorstop material to this length and secure it with the 2d finish nails. Be certain that the flat side of the doorstop material is facing the door.
7. Paint or stain the door jamb and stop