

Choosing and Installing a Kick Plate

A Helpful Guide by LookInTheAttic & Co.

Notes About Finishes

A kick plate will add both beauty and protection to your doors. In general, it is difficult to find an exact finish match to pre-existing hardware. You can certainly get close to the same finish, but terms such as ‘Polished Brass’, ‘Antique Brass’, ‘Brushed Nickel’ are subjective. When something is polished – to what extent is the sheen polished? When it is antiqued, to what extent and to what level of darkness? This aside, many Nickel finishes will match close enough to look fantastic together. The amount of light or shade on the door elements will also affect the appearance – so try not to worry too much about an exact match when a close match will work very well.

Polished brass is the gold standard – it is durable and it fits well with any color door. Polished surfaces are reflective and can mirror the surroundings. A PVD (Physical Vapor Deposition) coated Brass has a finish that is highly durable. Brass plated finishes, such as Brass on Aluminum, are less expensive, but these are not as durable as a solid Brass. A deep scratch in the kick plate will mar the surface and also cause the Aluminum color to show through to the top surface.

Brushed and satin finishes (such as Brushed Nickel, Satin Brass and Satin Nickel) are less reflective finishes and are a good variation on the more traditional Antique finishes (such as Antique Brass, Antique Pewter)

Choosing the Correct Size

A kick plate should not completely cover the door. A kick plate that extends the full width of a door can interfere with the proper opening and closing of the door and won’t look right. There should be a good space on each side of the kick plate. One inch (25.4 mm) on each side (left and right) of the kick plate and at least a ½ inch (12.5 mm) on the top or bottom will yield the best results. We can cut kick plates in nearly any size needed. Remember the basic rule - **measure twice, order once**.

How Is It Installed?

You have many choices for installation. A traditional mounting system screws directly into the door. This installation method is fairly straightforward and involves pre-drilling pilot holes into the door and screwing the kick plate directly to the door. Adhesive mounts can also be used but these are more difficult to uninstall (and sometimes messy) and can result in adhesive residue sticking to the door. Magnetic mounts are good for steel doors but remember that magnets do not stick to stainless steel doors. We recommend the tried and true method of direct screws.