



Origin Bi-fold Doors

Buyers Guide

Ever wondered why almost every project on Grand Designs feature bi-fold doors?

Is it because it adds value to your home?

Is it because they are environmentally as well as thermally efficient?

Or, is it because they offer a renovation that offers the design flexibility to complement any home style?

In fact, it's because they do all of these! Plus, a bi-folding door has the capability to transform a home by opening up space, inviting in natural light, removing barriers between the inside and out and helping to realise the potential of a home.

Glass, Glazing & Requirements

Fitting high performance double or triple glazed units into bi-fold doors will provide a secure and thermally efficient 'glass wall' that will have minimal impact on your energy bills.

24mm and 28mm sealed units are the industry standard for double glazing, and both will help keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer.

The difference in thermal transfer performance, or 'U-value', between the two is negligible, although despite popular misconception, the 24mm units perform better under testing.

Many different glass types are available. Whether you want to keep out the cold, limit noise, protect you from the sun, or even have glass that cleans itself, the choice is yours.

Building Regulations set standards for design and construction, and these apply to most new buildings and many alterations to existing buildings in England and Wales. These will dictate the required performance to ensure that the latest safety and thermal criteria are being adhered to, so it is imperative that any product chosen is compliant in meeting these standards.

Whoever your chosen supplier is, they should guide you through this process to ensure that all requirements are met.



Security

As with any type of external door, security is a high priority.

It is important that the door design allows for accredited locks to be incorporated within the door system, so always look for a multipoint lock with hooked locking points and shoot bolts.

The hinges of a door can often be an area of weakness, so enquire to see if they have been designed to withstand attack.

The profile from which the door is constructed is also important as the strength and integrity of the door relies on this. Finding the right balance between size and strength of profile - as well as the aesthetics of the overall door - is key to having a product that will perform well in all areas.

Most insurers will require the minimum of a 5 lever key cylinder to be fitted to the multipoint lock. There are a wide variety of options available, and it should be possible to upgrade from the minimum requirement to a British Standards accredited Magnum security cylinder that is 'anti-bump', 'anti-drill' and 'anti-snap' for additional security.

Installation is another key area that contributes to the security of any door. Ensure that the installation is carried out by competent professionals recognised by the product manufacturers.



Frame Material

Frame strength is very important, particularly when considering bi-folding doors or windows.

There are 3 main materials that bi-fold doors can be manufactured from; UPVC, wood and aluminium.

Good: UPVC



Quick facts:

- UPVC is the everyday material of choice for doors.
- Despite offering a reasonably reliable system, UPVC doors are prone to expanding, contracting and warping as a result of varying temperatures, so the operation of the doors can often become unpredictable.
- Generally low maintenance, but homeowners will often notice a fading effect or discolouration after a few years which will require repainting.

Conclusion:

Although a UPVC door may be less expensive as an initial layout, it is unlikely to be cost effective in the long run.

Better: Wood



Quick facts:

- Wood is the ultimate natural material and can deliver a tasteful, structurally sound option.
- A major drawback of wood is that it absorbs moisture, causing warping of the frames, which results in poor gasket seal performance and questionable operating.
- In order to combat the warping, a continuous maintenance routine will be needed, which can be expensive and time consuming.

Conclusion:

Wood offers a aesthetically pleasing finish, but its maintenance requirements are often a deterrent.

Best: Aluminium



Quick facts:

- Aluminium combines a lightweight structure with strength and durability, meaning that frames can be narrow and are resistant to flexing, twisting, expanding and contracting with heat variation - perfect for a door that will be opened and closed regularly.
- Because of its strength and versatility, aluminium offers more design freedom, so moving corner posts and doors to fit in large apertures are easily achieved. The narrow frames also let in more light and improve the view when the doors are closed.
- Aluminium frames are available in an unlimited amount of colours, including realistic wood grain effects, metallic colours and textured finishes. Its powder coat finish is extremely hard wearing and will not corrode, discolour, rot or warp.
- Aluminium is the most widely recycled material used in manufacturing, and an astonishing 75% of all aluminium sourced in the 1880's is still in use today, so it is also the most environmentally friendly.

Conclusion:

Aluminium is a modern material with aesthetics which can equal wood, but with performance and durability standards that exceed both wood and UPVC. Visually, it offers a stunning finish, but also ensures low maintenance, easy operation and high levels of security.



Planning Control

If you're replacing tired, old patio doors with a new bi-fold door system, it's very unlikely that you'll need any sort of planning permission. However, if you live in a conservation area, there may be regulations about what you can and cannot do to your home, particularly when it comes to replacing doors and windows.

Even if you do live in such an area, powder coated aluminium bi-fold doors are increasingly being accepted as an alternative to wooden frames by many local authorities. If you're not sure, check with your local authority to find out if your home is subject to any planning restrictions or conservation policies. In all circumstances, your chosen supplier should be able to guide you through the process if required.

Energy Ratings - what are they?

Energy ratings have been introduced on a number of products in your home to measure their thermal performance.

The thermal performance of your door is measured using a calculation criteria laid out by the Glass & Glazing Federation, not using the energy rating A-G system as often displayed. It is imperative that any door system you purchase is certified by an approved BFRC (British Fenestration Ratings Council) member to ensure that the thermal properties of the door meet current building regulations.

Who is the manufacturer?

Knowing that every part of the door has been carefully crafted to be fit for purpose gives you complete peace of mind.

There are generally two types of manufacturer;

Manufacturers - design and build their own products from start to finish.

Fabricators - purchase components from 'systems' (design) companies and produce the doors themselves.

Manufacturers that design and build their own products will have complete control over the quality and specification of the items being produced.

If you opt for a fabricator, it is important that you understand who the fabricator is and confirm that the doors are being produced to the system company's specification and quality standards.

The manufacturer should be able to discuss your requirements and assist you with your designs.

Guarantees/Warranties

It is important to identify what guarantees are on offer for the products you are purchasing. Guarantees can often be offered by a re-seller, not the manufacturer, so be sure to clarify what the offer is. Needless to say, a manufacturer that keeps all of its operations and production in-house will have better quality control than that of a fabricator, so their warranties are often more comprehensive.



Why Origin?

Origin are an international award-winning manufacturer of bespoke aluminium bi-fold doors, windows and made-to-measure blinds.

Combining high quality components with precision engineering, Origin have a proven track record in providing high quality, functional and stylish products that are built to last.

Origin products are designed and manufactured at their state-of-the-art UK facility, and are completely bespoke to the customer's specification. The unique opportunity to choose from a huge variety of different opening configurations, colours, handles and finishes means that having a door completely tailored to requirements, whilst complementing any style, is easy.

Ensure your choice ticks all the boxes.

- ✓ Exclusively designed and manufactured by Origin in Great Britain.
- ✓ Unrivalled 20-year manufacturer's guarantee for complete peace of mind.
- ✓ Ultra slim aluminium frames that deliver a secure and reliable bi-fold door system which lets in more light.
- ✓ Only ultra-high quality components, specifically designed by Origin, are used for optimum efficiency.
- ✓ Direct contact with the manufacturer's UK based customer service team.
- ✓ Multipoint locking system, security hinges and shoot bolts for a truly secure system.
- ✓ A bi-fold door that comes with a host of safety features including finger safe gaskets and a 'magnet keep' to hold the doors in place when opened comes as standard.
- ✓ The industry's most flexible lead times – delivered when you need them.
- ✓ Certified thermal performance which meets all current British Building Regulations.
- ✓ Premium locking mechanisms that ensure maximum compression for increased weather resistance.

Origin makes summer days longer, winter evenings brighter and connects a home to a garden or terrace like never before.





About Origin

Origin are the UK's leading specialist manufacturer of bespoke aluminium bi-folding doors, windows and made-to-measure blinds.

Established in 2002, Origin have since worked relentlessly to perfect the design and functionality of bi-folding doors, windows and blinds to create and maintain the highly respected reputation for quality and service they have today.

Origin was originally born when cousins, Neil Ginger and Victoria Brocklesby, set out with the ambition to design, create and manufacture the UK's best quality doors, backed by uncompromising levels of service.

Despite the growth and deserved success, the family ethos still firmly remains today.



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