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Shut the (very stylish) front door!



o yourself a favour, walk outside your front door, take step back and take a look at it. If it could talk, what would it say?

If it's making a very strong negative statement like, "Go away" or "Contents Inside Unsafe", you may as well finish the look with some yellow caution tape and call it a day.

Your front door should say something about you and your style and give a hint at what's inside your home. It's a great place to add style and character and make a great statement.

Lately I've heard some arguments regarding steel and fiberglass doors vs. solid wood. Fiberglass and steel doors are safe, affordable and can be customized for a stylish look.

Solid wood doors are safe, customizable and come in a higher "snack bracket". So what are the benefits of spending more money on a wood door.

I asked my friend, Chris Black, sales design consultant at Amber-

wood Doors chris@amberwood-doors.com about the benefits of a custom-made solid wood door.

"Some people like to think beyond the price, it matters to them that they have a front door that makes them happy to come home," he said.

Out of every 100 doors Amberwood custom designs, 90 are made from solid mahogany or white oak. People choose them for the unique variation of the grain pattern that comes from trees being a living thing.

No two trees are exactly the same so the grain will always be slightly different, so aesthetically-speaking a solid wood door will always be one of a kind. Because they are heavy, they are also considered safe. Of all the thousands of doors they've installed there have been zero break ins.

Statistically, that's a pretty good record. Since the doors are 100% customizable, you can change the height, width, glass design and style.

So why do we hear about doors rotting? Chris says that it's a misnomer. These doors and solid wood doors can last over 100 years. Fiberglass and steel doors are usually replaced more often over during that same time period.

What about fading? If the door is north or east-facing you'll never have a problem. If it's south facing it will fade from the sun, but you simply sand it down and refinish it.

A steel door can turn powderywhite from exposure. When it's done, it's done. If an older home has a solid wood door you can keep using it and enjoy it for years to come, even if you knock the rest of the house down.

In today's market, real estate agents consider solid wood doors a selling feature, and with the average home costing almost \$1 million, you may want to preserve your investment and increase the value of your home.

After all, he says, when you buy one luxury item, like a solid wood, custom made door, you only buy it once. You'll never have to replace it.

Whether you choose fiberglass, steel or wood it's good to know there are benefits to all. But from a design point of view, not matter what you have, make it a welcoming, stylish statement that reflects you.

 Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer, TV personality and leading expert in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.



Your front door should say something about you and is a great place to add style and character, and make a statement.



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