

ter·mi·nol·o·gy

/ˌtɜrməˈnäləjē/

noun

the body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, profession, etc.

"the terminology of semiotics"



THE ART OF CONFUSION



Common Terminology used in the Door Industry

Active: In paired or double doors, the hinged door slab which is primarily operable.

Air Infiltration: Air passing through a door system when the door is under pressure, usually from wind.

Annealed Glass: Regular glass which has not been heat strengthened or tempered. Most window glass is annealed.

Arch-top: One of several terms used for a variety of window units with one or more curved frame members, often used over another window or door opening. Also referred to as circle-heads, circle-tops and round-tops.

Argon: An inert, nontoxic gas used in insulating glass to reduce heat transfer.

Astragal: The post-type fitting on the latch-side edge of one of a set of paired or double doors, which covers the margin between doors when they are closed, and which houses or contains the weather-strip. An Aluminum vertical extrusion used on a double door to secure the active door slab to the inactive door slab. The astragal is attached to the least active door slab.

Backset: Distance from the center of cross-bore hole to edge of door; Schlage residential locks accommodate 2-3/8" and 2-3/4". Some customers refer to the latch as the backset. Some hardware comes with adjustable backsets. A device installed through the edge of the door slab to latch the door slab to the door frame.

Ball-Bearing Hinge: A heavier-duty hinge than the standard hinge, with bearings supporting the pivots.

Bead: A sealant after application in a joint, irrespective of the method of application, such as sealant bead.

Boot: A term used for the rubber part at the bottom or top end of an astragal, which beds the astragal end and seals between the end and the door frame or sill. ProVia calls this the Astragal Bottom Pad.

Boss, Screw Boss: A feature of a part which enables the fastening of a screw into the feature, thereby allowing assembly of the part with another. Screw bosses are common features of molded plastic lite frames.

Brickmold: A molding, used to trim the outside edge of a door frame. Brickmould is most often applied to pre-hung units.

Buck: A rough wooden framework built into a window or door opening in a concrete or masonry wall, to which the window or door frame is secured.

Butyl: An organic compound, used in the door business as a sealant. It is naturally black, and is heated and pumped through nozzles, or pumped cold.

Came, Caming: Formed metal stripping, usually made of brass or zinc plated steel, used between cut-glass pieces to assemble the pieces into a decorative glass panel. Caming is soldered at joints to bond the glass assembly together.

Carpet Shim: A spacer block used under a door sill to raise the sill an appropriate amount if carpet is used, so the door panel clears the carpet when opened.

Casing: A horizontal or vertical molding, which accents or trims edges of doors and windows to the surrounding walls. Casing also covers or accents intermediate posts. ProVia defines casing as the decorative wood trim surrounding the interior of the door opening. An interior trim molding used around doors and windows to cover the area between the wall and the edge of the jamb.

Caulk: To fill or close seams or crevices in order to make watertight, airtight, etc.

Clad / Cladding: Provided with a facing or jacket which works as a protection against weather and provides a finished appearance. Cladding may be painted metal, plastic, or a heavy coating applied by the manufacturer. A protective covering applied to the exterior portion of the wood frame and brickmold.

Closed-Cell Foam: Sponge-like material, usually used in gaskets and weatherstripping, which compresses into joints, but absorbs little water.

Continuous Sill: A sill used for a type of door and sidelite unit in which the unit has fullwidth top and bottom frame parts, and an internal post or posts separating sidelites from the door panel

Core: The center section or part of a door or door part.

Corner Plug, Corner Seal Pad: A small part, usually made of resilient material, used to seal water which gets beyond the bottom ends of weatherstrip in doors, from getting between the door edge and the jambs, adjacent to the bottom gasket.

Divided lites: Separately framed pieces or panes of glass. A double-hung window, for instance, often has several lites divided by muntins in each sash. These designs are often referred to as six-over-six, eight-over-one, etc., to indicate the number of lites in each sash. Designs simulating the appearance of separately framed panes of glass are often referred to as SDLs or simulated divided lites. Designs using actual separate pieces of glass are sometimes referred to as TDLs or true divided lites

Doorlite: An assembly of frame and glass panel, which when fitted to a door in a formed or cut-out hole, creates a door with a glass opening.

Door slab: part of the door attached to the frame by hinges.

Double door: 2 door slabs in a frame secured to each other in the center by the astragal.

Double-Glazed: Outfitted with two panes of glass with a sealed airspace between.

Drip Cap: A molding or flashing commonly installed over windows and doors to direct water away from the building.

Drip Strip: In exterior doors, a fitting used across the outside face of the door adjacent to the bottom edge, to divert cascading rain away from the door bottom edge and away from the door/sill joint.

Drywall Opening: A rectangular opening in a wall, usually an interior wall, prepared to the size necessary to receive a pre-hung assembly.

Dummy Cylinder: A lock without a latch, typically used for the passive door panel of a double door unit, so that the hardware appears equal to that used on the active panel.

Cross Bore: A large through-hole, near the edge of a door panel, usually 2-1/8 inch in diameter, which houses a cylinder lockset or deadbolt latch.

Cylinder Lock, Cylindrical Lock: Lock hardware which mounts into a door which has been prepared with a bored hole or holes through the face, and into the edge.

Deadbolt: See Deadbolt latch.

Deadbolt latch: not spring-loaded; used in keyed-entry functions; when locked, deadbolt extends into door jamb; when unlocked, deadbolt retracts into the door.

Deadlatch: spring-loaded latch; used in keyed-entry functions; features a half-circle bar that rests alongside the latch plunger and deadlocks to prevent picking.

Deflection: The distance a door has moved away from its closed and latched position, usually measured at the top unsupported latch-side corner. Deflection may be caused by wind pressure or heat. Deflection is temporary. The door returns to position when the force is removed.

Design pressure (DP): A measurement of the structural performance of a window or door. Usually specified as one-and-a-half times greater than necessary based on expected building, wind and weather conditions.

Edge Bore: The hole bored through the edge of a door to allow the latch to pass through, into the strike. Standard is 1"

Electric Strike: A mechanism which allows a switch to open the latch of a door.

End Seal Pad: A closed-cell foam piece, about 1/16-inch-thick, in the shape of a sill profile, fastened between the sill and the jamb to seal the joint.

Escutcheon: A stamped decorative plate, usually circular to trim the shaft of a doorknob or deadbolt latch, to trim the opening where the shaft or latch adjoins the face of a door.

Etched Glass: Glass used for doorlites on which a decorative pattern is engraved by means of chemical action or mechanical sand-blasting.

Faceplate: The plated or solid metal trim piece, usually about 1 x 2-1/4 inches, housed flush into the edge of a door, through which projects the latch of a passage lock or deadbolt.

Finger Joint: A way of joining short sections of board stock together, end to end to make longer stock. Door and frame parts are often made using finger-jointed pine stock. A glued joint consisting of a series of interlocking fingers, precision-machined on the ends of two pieces of wood to be jointed.

Fire Door: A door of a construction type which has been tested to contain the spread of fire from one room or occupancy area to another. Fire doors are listed and labeled to show their ratings in terms of time, i.e., 20-Minute, 90-Minute, etc.

Flush-Glazed: A type of glazed door which has its glass perimeter moldings flush with or set down from the face of the surrounding door.

Foam: Rigid or flexible plastic, light in weight and cellular in structure, used in door construction. Rigid foam is used as the insulating and binding core for doors. Flexible foam is sometimes used as gasket.

Foot Bolt: A steel pin housed in a door bottom edge or astragal, with a latch mechanism, which can be driven down to project into a receiver socket or hole in the floor or threshold, to better secure the door when closed.

Frame: In door assemblies, the perimeter members at the top and sides, to which the door is hinged and latched. See jamb. The outside perimeter of a window or door consisting of two side jamb members, one head member and one sill member.

Frame extension: wood added to a wood frame to increase the depth/width to the same thickness as the wall thickness.

Galvanized: An adjective used to describe steel which has been zinc-coated. Galvanized steel is resistant to corrosion.

Gasket: A strip of flexible material which in an assembly of parts, prevents air and water from penetrating or passing through joints between parts.

Glazing: The elastic material used to seal glass to a surrounding frame.

Grille: For doors with glass lites or inserts, a removable face-mounted assembly of thin wood or plastic pieces, which when in place, gives the lite or insert a patterned multi-pane look.

Grooved Glass: Glass which has been decorated with abrasively-routed recesses. Grooving can give a single piece of glass a multi-paned look.

Handing: A term which describes or determines the direction of swing of a door when opening.

Handlesets: add a bold, decorative touch to an entry door. They include an exterior handle, a thumb-operated latch and a matching deadbolt. A knob or lever operates the latch from the inside. You can find handlesets with right-handed, left-handed and universal levers. The included deadbolt may be single- or double-cylinder, depending on the model. Manufacturers may offer matching, nonfunctional (dummy) handlesets to complement the functional hardware on a double door. If you're replacing a handleset, look for adjustable models that make it possible to use the existing installation holes in the door.

Head Bolt: A steel pin housed in a door top edge or astragal. See *foot bolt*.

Head, Head Jamb, Header: The horizontal top frame member of a door assembly. The horizontal member forming the top of the frame.

Hinge: An assembly of metal plates and a cylindrical metal pin, which when fastened to a door edge and to a door frame, allow the door to swing or rotate in its frame.

Hinge Stile: The full-length vertical edge of a door, at the side or edge of the door which fastens to its frame with hinges.

Horned Sill: A sill which has been coped or cut in such a way at its ends, so that the sill projects across the outside face of the bottoms of door jambs, allowing the bottom ends of the brickmould pieces to butt and join to the top of the sill.

IG Unit: Abbreviation for insulated glass unit. Two or more panes of glass spaced apart and hermetically sealed in a factory.

Impact Doors: Doors manufactured with an internal reinforcement (steel plate) to comply with Coastal Building Code (Impact Resistance) requirements.

Impact Glass: Glass lites in either clear or decorative designs manufactured with a reinforcement film laminated between two layers of glass to comply with windborne Coastal Building requirements.

Inactive: A term for a door panel fixed in its frame. Inactive door panels are not hinged and are not operable.

Insulated Glass, Insulating Glass: A glass assembly of multiple full-lite pieces, separated by a perimeter spacer and sealed as a unit. Insulated glass in residential doors is usually made with two thicknesses of 1/8 inch glass, separated by an airspace up to 3/4 inch thick.

Inswing: A term used to describe an exterior entry door unit for which, when the hinged door panel is opened, the panel swings into the building.

Jack Stud: A block or short stud nailed to the rough door or window studding to add strength and to provide a solid bearing for the lintel and nailing member for the finished door jamb or window frame.

Jamb: A vertical and horizontal perimeter frame part of a door system. A vertical member of a window or door frame; also called side jamb.

Jamb Jack: A fastener device for fixing a door frame to a wall structure, which allows the space or margin between the frame and the structure opening to be varied by turning the fastener screw.

Jamb Stop: In exterior door frames, the molded-in rebate surface of a frame member against which door panels close and seal.

Kerf: A thin slot cut into a part with a molder or saw blade. Weather-strip is inserted into kerfs cut into door jambs.

King Stud: In a wood-framed rough opening, the stud which runs full height from floor plate to ceiling plate, against which trimmer stud attaches.

Knuckle: The feature of a hinge where the hinge leaf is cut for two or three projections which wrap and form a barrel or socket for the hinge pin.

Laminate: A thin face of wood or plastic, adhesively bonded to a core or substrate, which makes up the decorative, wear or weatherable surface of the part.

Laminated glass: Two or more sheets of glass with an inner layer of transparent plastic to which the glass adheres if broken. Used for enhanced safety and security, as well as sound reduction.

Latch: part of lock that is installed in the door edge; plunger extends into door jamb to lock; types of latches include spring latch, dead latch and deadbolt latch

Leaf: A term which can apply to a door or hinge and which defines a part of the assembly which can swing on a pivot. Butt hinges have two leaves.

Level: Having a horizontally flat, even surface with no irregularities and no vertical tilt.

Lintel: A horizontal structural component or beam above a window or door opening that supports the wall above. Also referred to as a header.

Lite/Light: An assembly of glass and a surrounding frame, which is assembled to a door, or is integrally built into the door at the factory. The glass inserted into the door to add light and a decorative accent. One piece of glazing or another term for a pair of glass used in a window or door.

Lock Block: A rectangular block of wood or other solid material, placed inside a door assembly at the lock side edge, which reinforces the assembly when the lock hardware is installed.

Lock Bore: For cylindrical locksets, the large through hole, usually 2-1/8 inches in diameter, bored near the door panel's lock edge, into which the lock mechanism is placed and installed.

Lock Stile: In insulated door assemblies, the full-length part, usually wood, which makes up the lock edge of the door panel. In wood stile and rail doors, the full-length wood piece, 4 to 6 inches wide, at the lock edge of the door.

Low-emissivity (Low-E) Glass: Glass which has been factory coated with a thin layer of material, nearly clear, which acts to absorb and reflect heat and light energy.

LVL: Abbreviation for laminated veneer lumber. LVL is a manufactured wood product, in which veneer layers are adhesively bonded into a layup of multiple thicknesses. LVL is made to specified strengths and is used for structural purposes.

Masonry opening: Area in a masonry wall left open for windows or a door.

Margin: The space between the door slab and the installation frame.

Miter: An angled cut across the end of a lineal part, usually done to join with a similarly cut part at a corner.

Molding: A strip of wood or other material having a rounded or otherwise decorative surface; used to conceal joints or to accent and highlight other surfaces.

Mortise: A recess cut into the surface or edge of a part, usually for the purpose of housing hardware such as hinges and lock parts.

Mortise-Type Lock: A lockset which usually has a rectangular-shaped mechanism, which is housed into a deep recess cut into the edge of a door.

Mull: A short term for mullion. Used occasionally as a verb to describe the joining of two door units together, or the joining of a door to a sidelite unit.

Mull Cover: The horizontal component between the door and transom. Sometimes called the horizontal Mull Cover.

Mulled: An adjective describing a door and sidelite unit which has been made up by edge-joining two framed units together. Where two doors, sidelites, or windows are joined at the mullion.

Mullion: A post or divider which runs from sill to frame top in a multi-panel door, or door and sidelite assembly. In stile and rail doors, the vertical wood parts which separate panels. Wood covering the area of the wood frame where a door and sidelite have been fastened together.

Mullion Build-Up: Additional material inserted between the door and sidelite during fabrication to increase unit width.

Mull Post: The vertical component between the door and sidelites. Also called vertical Mullion.

Multiple Extension Unit: In patio door assemblies, a fixed door panel in a separate frame, edge-joined to a patio door unit to add another glass panel to the installation.

Multi-Point Hardware: Any hardware that has multiple locking points which simultaneously lock into place through the action of a continuous travel drive rail activated by a handle.

Muntins: In glazed lite assemblies, thin vertical and horizontal divider bars, which give the lite a multi-paned look. Muntins may be part of lite frames, and on the outside surface of the glass, or assembled between glass in insulated glass units. A vertical or horizontal sash member that separates two or more lights within a sash. Also called Grids.

Nailing Fin: A feature of some windows and patio doors which permits installation and fastening to a rough opening by nails or screws driven through the fin at the top and side edges of the unit, into the surrounding frame of the opening.

NFRC: Initials for National Fenestration Ratings Council, an industry association which sets standards for testing, rating, and labeling doors and windows with heat transmission and energy information.

Night Latch: A lever or knob-actuated bolt for fastening a door more securely at night.

Nosing: An edge piece, usually molded with a rounded face or corner, which runs the length of an assembly. Oak adjustable sills have a nosing part along the floor line at the inside edges.

NRP Hinge: An abbreviation for a hinge with a non-removable pivot pin. NRP hinges are used when exterior doors swing out, as a security feature. The fixed pins make it impossible to remove a door by driving out pivot pins. ProVia calls these outswing hinges.

Open-Cell Foam: A foam material which has passageways between cells. Open-cell foam will absorb and retain water, because the water will penetrate deeply inside the foam.

Outswing: An exterior door assembly in which the door panel swings outside the building.

Padded: Adding material to a rough opening to decrease its size.

Panel Profile: The dimensional design of each panel. Beveled is a common profile.

Panic-proof Lock: A lock and latch device which permits a door to be opened outward by pressure being applied to a bar mounted across the inside face of the door. ProVia uses a panic bar.

Passage Lock: A lockset which will retain a door closed, but which cannot be locked.

Passive: In a double or two-panel door assembly, the door which usually remains closed and fixed by bolts at top and bottom. The other door panel is used for regular passage.

Plant: A decorative molding applied to the surface of a flush door, to give the appearance of a raised-molding design.

Plumb: To make vertical.

PVC: Abbreviation for polyvinyl chloride, a plastic material used to make molded or extruded parts.

Radiation: The transfer of heat in the form of electromagnetic waves from one separate surface to another. Low-E glass is designed to reduce this type of heat transfer by reflecting electromagnetic waves.

Rabbet, Rebate: A rectangular recess cut or formed along the long edge of a part, usually a wood part. The step cut in a wood frame where a door or sidelite rests.

Rail: In insulated door panels, the part made of wood or a composite material, which runs inside the assembly, across the top and bottom ends and makes up the top or bottom edge. In stile and rail doors, horizontal pieces at top and bottom edges, and at intermediate points, which connect and frame between the stiles. The horizontal component that frames the panels, lites, and mullions. The horizontal piece of sash or screen frame.

Ramp: In a sill or threshold, the horizontal face which is sloped.

Reflective glass: Window glass coated to reflect visible light and solar radiation striking the surface of the glass

Relative Humidity: The amount of water vapor in the air as a percentage of the maximum amount the air could hold at the same temperature.

Reveal: The part of the edge of a door or window frame/jamb not covered by the casing. Also can mean the offset or margin between edges of parts.

Riser: A term which describes the part of an adjustable sill which can be moved up or down by turning adjusting screws.

Riveted-Pin Hinge: See *NRP hinge*.

Rough Opening: A structurally-framed opening in a wall which receives a door unit or window.

R-Value: Resistance to thermal transfer or heat flow. Higher R-value numbers indicate greater insulating value. R-value is frequently used by the insulation industry and is the reciprocal of U-factor, a value more generally used in the window industry. Thermal Resistance = $1 \div \text{U-Value}$.

Saddle: In adjustable sills, another term for riser. Also, a shop-applied label applied around the corner or edge of a door, which provides identification and installation instructions.

Safety glass: A strengthened or reinforced glass that is less subject to breakage or splintering and less likely to cause injury if broken. Law requires glass in doors to be some type of safety glazing product, such as tempered or laminated glass.

Sash: The frame that contains the glass panes of a transom. An assembly of one or more lites of glazing, encompassed by surrounding edge members, which when operable, slides in the plane of the window. The term “sash” can be used regardless of the mode of operation.

Screen Track: A feature of a door sill or frame head which provides a housing and runner for rollers, to allow a screen panel to slide from side to side in the door.

Sealant: Elastic material pumped or troweled into a joint to prevent water penetration.

Shim: A thin piece of material used between parts of an assembly, to change and fix the distance between parts, when parts are fastened.

Sidelite: A fixed narrow panel, installed next to a door panel, for decorative purposes. Sidelites almost always contain glass lites. The decorative glass component installed on one or both sides of the door. Inactive panel installed beside the operating door.

Sill: See threshold.

Sill pan: A product placed under a window or door during the installation process that is designed for water drainage.

Sill Saddle: See *riser*.

Simulated divided lites (SDLs): A type of grille or grid design that creates the appearance of several smaller panes of glass separated by muntins but uses larger lites of glass with the muntins placed between and/or on the surfaces of the glass layers.

Single door: 1 door slab in a frame.

Skin: A single piece of material used as the face of a door.

Slab: A term for a complete door panel that has been prepared for installation into a frame.

Slide Bolt: The part of an astragal assembly which, by means of moving latches at tops and bottoms of astragals, places bolts into frame heads and sills, for fixing passive door panels closed.

Solid-core door: Flush door produced with a solid material placed within the door skins. Signet fire rated doors have a solid-core.

Spread Mullion: Using two back to back jambs and blocking on a continuous sill to increase the mullion width to meet a variety of rough opening requirements.

STC: Abbreviation for sound transmission coefficient. A value which describes in relative terms the ability of a door to dampen the passage of noise. Doors with higher STC values permit less noise to pass through.

Sticking: The detailing around the perimeter of the panels or lites. Term normally used for wood doors but can also mean the glass trim.

Stile: In insulated door panels, the full-length parts, usually wood, which make up the long edges. In stile and rail doors, the vertical edge parts.

Strike / Strike plate: A metal part with a hole or recess for receiving a door latch, also with a curved or ramped face so a spring-loaded latch contacts it when closing. Strikes are fit into mortises in door jambs or mullions, and screw-fastened. Small metal plate installed in the frame to receive the latch bolt or deadbolt.

Style: A number or name defining a door design or configuration.

Subfloor: The concrete or wood floor surface lying under the finished floor. Pre-hung door assemblies are installed atop the subfloor.

Substrate: The base or core material in an assembly of parts. In sills, the full-length wood or composite part of the sill, visible only from the bottom side, or ends.

Sweep: The flexible seal material attached to the bottom of the door.

Swing: the direction a door operates.

Tempered Glass: Glass sheet which has been strengthened by heat processing. Tempered glass when broken, shatters into small pieces without sharp edges. See *safety glass*.

Template: A pattern or jig used to machine-cut a precise hole or recess into a door or frame part.

Thermal Break: A feature of a door or frame assembly which separates metal or glass exposed to outside temperatures, from coming into contact and transmitting heat to or from inside-exposed parts.

Threshold: Another term for sill. The horizontal part of a door assembly fixed under the door panel and bearing on the floor. The bottom component of a door system connecting the left and right vertical pieces.

Threshold extension: aluminum part attached to the threshold to increase the depth to the same thickness as the frame.

Thumb-turn: a small knob that twists, typically seen on interior of lock, and is used to lock/unlock

Tinted Glass: Glass made with a green, gray or bronze tint to reduce light transmittance.

Transom: A framed glass assembly mounted atop a door assembly. Transoms are rectangular in shape or have curved or arched tops. One design of a curved top transom has the shape of a half-ellipse. The decorative glass component installed above a doorway. Insulated glass glazed into a wood frame and attached to the top of the door unit.

Transport Clip: A steel piece used to temporarily fasten a pre-hung door assembly closed for handling and shipping, which maintains the door panel's proper position in the frame.

Trimmer Stud: In a wood-framed rough opening, the stud or framing member which runs vertically from the subfloor to and supporting the structural header member, into which a door frame is fastened.

Triple-Glazed: An insulated glass assembly made of three thicknesses of glass, with air spaces between the outer and inner thicknesses.

U-Value: A number which describes in specific terms, the ability of a material or assembly to transmit heat from outside to inside surfaces. Assemblies with lower U-values transmit less heat than those with higher values. See *R-value*. A U-value is the inverse of an R-value.

Urethane: A plastic material made by reacting two polymers.

Veneer: A thin film or facing, adhesively bonded to a core or substrate, which makes up the exposed and decorative face of an assembly.

Vinyl: Generic term for polyvinylchloride or PVC, an extruded material used for window and door framing.

Warm-edge: A type of insulating glass construction using an airspace offering lower thermal conductance than traditional aluminum spacer. Warm-edge IG units typically offer higher resistance to condensation and an incremental improvement in window energy performance.

Warp: A permanent curvature or deviation from straightness, which can be induced in a part or assembly by a load or force, or by exposure to heat or moisture.

Water Penetration: The unwanted passage of water through a door system.

Weatherstripping: A material or device used to seal the openings, gaps or cracks of door units to prevent water and air infiltration.

Wind load: Force exerted on a surface by moving air.

Wired Glass: Glass made for use in fire doors, which has embedded wires which bind the glass, and permit the glass to remain monolithic when exposed to fire.

Yellow Zinc Dichromate: A brass-look plating to steel parts, which is highly corrosion-resistant.