

Maintain your **WOOD DOORS**

Compiled by **Erinn Figg**

Founded in 1972, the family-owned **MEMPHIS DOOR & HARDWARE** is a full-service company that provides everything from weather stripping to refinishing to full door replacement, complete with hardware, finish work and even retrofitting.

CONTACT: Memphis Door & Hardware, 901-755-1370, memphisdoor.com

Owner of Memphis Door and Hardware, and the Salvaggio Group, Tony Salvaggio, addresses some common things homeowners should keep in mind when it comes to ensuring their doors weather the tests of time and the elements.

Every door tells many stories that deserve to be preserved

Your door often is the first impression people get when they enter your home. What's more, it holds a history of precious family memories of the people who have walked through it to celebrate weddings, the memories of departed loved ones and other important milestones. With this history in mind,

Salvaggio is a fan of saving doors whenever he can instead of replacing them, and he hopes this perspective might inspire others to follow a door maintenance schedule. "If you're going to be investing money in a door, you shouldn't be replacing it every couple of years." For an example of a door maintenance plan, visit memphisdoor.com/paint_stain.html

When cold weather hits, his phones start ringing off the hook

"Typically after the first couple of cool nights we have, our phones are blowing up because people feel cold drafts coming in."

Look for drafts around existing weather stripping, the threshold and even around the locks, which may have gaps in them, as signs that your door needs to be resealed for the winter. "If a homeowner can see light at the perimeter or the bottom of the door, that's another sign that the door isn't weather-stripped properly or needs adjustment."



PHOTOS COURTESY MEMPHIS DOOR AND HARDWARE

Watch for signs weather is taking its toll

If so, it may not be too late to save it. "The door is having an environmental response to the weather if the finish has gotten hazy or chalky or it's showing signs of surface cracks in the wood. We can usually salvage those doors by sanding them down and reapplying fresh primers and paints." If homeowners are concerned, they can call Memphis Door to simply come take a look without worrying about a hard sell, Salvaggio said. He prides himself on his company's honest approach to customer service.

Should you need a new door, Salvaggio will most likely find your old one a good home

"We donate heavy-duty or rotted doors to Memphis and Shelby County police and fire departments for training purposes. Any doors that can possibly be reused, we give to Habitat to Humanity." Salvaggio invites both organizations to call if they're interested in these donations.

