

Technical Bulletin FH 2024-03

Last Update:
November 15, 2024

First Release:
October 21, 2024

Applicable Standards:
FORTIFIED Home™—Hurricane
FORTIFIED Home™—High Wind

Applicable Designation Level:



Dog Doors in FORTIFIED Homes

Introduction

Dog doors are often a desired feature for homeowners that are installed in exterior doors and windows or through exterior walls. Installing Dog doors in a window or an exterior door affects its impact and design pressure ratings, and installing a dog door in an exterior wall leaves an exposed opening. Therefore, dog doors present a challenge to FORTIFIED Silver and Gold eligibility and, if installed after the original designation can result in a downgraded designation level at renewal.

Because the installation of dog doors is prevalent, the FORTIFIED Silver and Gold requirements have been updated to address installation of dog doors, effective immediately.



Figure 1. Dog door installed in exterior door.



Figure 2. Dog door installed in exterior wall.





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Requirements

Per sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the [2025 FORTIFIED Home™ Standard](#), for a FORTIFIED Silver designation all openings must be protected from impact by one of two options; opening assemblies may either be impact-rated or protected by a qualified impact-rated opening protection system. Effective immediately, FORTIFIED Silver requirements for dog doors are the following:

- Dog doors located in impact-rated window and/or door assemblies must either be included in the tested assembly for impact-rating or the entire opening must be protected by an impact-rated opening protection system as detailed in sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the [2025 FORTIFIED Home Standard](#).
- **Dog doors up to 3 ft² installed in exterior walls are exempt from impact-rating requirements.**

Per section 6.2 of the [2025 FORTIFIED Home Standard](#), for a FORTIFIED Gold designation, all openings must be adequately design-pressure rated for the site design conditions of the home. Effective immediately, FORTIFIED Gold requirements for dog doors are the following:

- Dog doors are not allowed to be installed in door or window assemblies unless part of the design pressure rated tested assembly.
- **Dog doors up to 3 ft² installed in exterior walls are exempt from design pressure rating requirement.**

Compliance Verification Requirements

- Photos documenting both the height and width of the dog door, with a tape measure for scale. Dimensions in the photo must be clear and legible.
- For dog doors installed in exterior walls:
 - Full elevation photo of the entire wall in which the dog door is installed, showing all openings in that wall.
- For dog doors installed in entry door assemblies:
 - Certified test report for the opening assembly showing





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the dog door is part of the impact rated and/or design pressure rated system, as applicable.

- For impact rated covers installed over dog doors:
 - When dog doors are installed in entry doors, the impact rated cover must protect the full entry door.
 - Two photos for impact-rated cover
 - One overall photo
 - One photo showing a label with impact rating or alternate documentation of impact such as certified test report.
 - At least one photo must show permanent anchor installation.

Additional References

- [2025 FORTIFIED Home Standard](#)
- [FORTIFIED Legal Disclaimer](#)

