



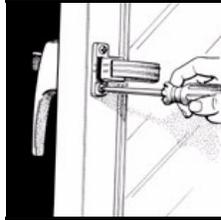
## Repair an Aluminum Storm/Screen Door

From Truevalue.com

Now's a great time to complete some fast repairs on your door before the cold air starts sneaking in through the cracks. Aluminum storm doors are generally quite rugged and maintenance-free but, as they get older, repairs may be needed. Use any of the following quick fixes to restore your door to like-new condition. The repairs are very easy and require only basic tools. Most of the materials are readily available at the store, including several styles of door locks (including keyed models), pneumatic closers, and replacement vinyl seals for the door bottom.

### Tools & Materials Checklist

- Screwdriver
- Pneumatic door closer
- Storm door handle
- Tape measure
- Awl or pencil
- Threaded rivet
- Rivet gun
- Drill or drill/driver
- Twist bits
- Aluminum storm sash clip w/knurled screw



### Replace a Broken Handle

**Step 1.** Remove the two screws that join the interior and exterior plates of the old door lock, and take apart the two- or three-piece assembly. Remove the two screws securing the old strike, too. If your replacement lock has the same mounting hole positions, simply reverse the sequence to install the new handle.

**Step 2.** If installing a different handle, follow the maker's directions to position the paper template on the door and to mark and drill new mounting holes. Make sure that you place the new handle far enough above or below the knob of the exterior door so they won't interfere with each other.

**Step 3.** Assemble the new handle onto the door as directed and secure it with screws.

### Install a Pneumatic Closer

**Step 1.** Install the closer where you can reach the hold-open washer (typically at the center rail). Position the jamb bracket on the hinge-side doorframe allowing the necessary space from the storm door (and the head jamb if you are installing the closer at the top of the door). Mark mounting-hole locations and drill the correct size pilot holes as directed on the package. Attach the bracket with screws.



#### **Tip: Use Longer Screws**

*The screws provided in the package typically only penetrate the door jamb. Substitute 2-1/2-in. long screws (same diameter and coarse thread). The bracket will be more securely anchored into the house framing and be less likely to pull loose from years of use.*

**Step 2.** Place the hold-open washer on the closer rod and attach the closer to the jamb bracket with the removable pin provided.

**Step 3.** Attach the door bracket to the other end of the piston and swing it against the closed door. Mark the bracket mounting holes as directed. Drill pilot holes and secure the bracket to the door with screws.

**Step 4.** Attach the strike to the jamb so it aligns with the handle mechanism and engages it securely. Most strikes have slotted mounting holes to allow adjustment as you tighten the screws.

**Step 5.** Open the door wide and allow it to close freely. Twist the adjustment screw on the end of the closer (or with some models, a knob on the cylinder itself) until the door closes and latches without slamming.

More Tips on Back

## Install New Panel Clips

If you have the type of storm-and-screen door that has interchangeable glass and screen panels, check the panel clips before you install them each season. Panel clips are what hold the window or screen in the door safely. If a threaded rivet for a storm or screen panel clip is loose, it will turn and you'll be unable to tighten or remove the screw. You need to install a new threaded rivet and clip adjacent to the defective one. Threaded rivets may be hard to find; if this hardware store doesn't carry them, an automotive supply and repair shop or glass shops are good places to look.

**Step 1.** Drill a clearance hole for a new threaded rivet (same diameter as rivet) through the inner face of the door stile. Maintain control by drilling slowly and exerting only moderate pressure. Thread a pull-stem into the rivet and press the rivet into the hole. Slide the nose of a rivet gun over the stem and squeeze the handle only until the rivet is secure. Do not break or "pop" off the stem as you would with standard rivets.

**Step 2.** Unscrew the stem from the rivet and install a new sash clip with a knurled screw into the threaded insert.

## Replace Worn Vinyl Seal

The vinyl seal on the door creates a positive seal between the bottom of the door and the threshold to prevent cold air from blowing into the house. Damaged or deteriorated weather-stripping greatly increases the loss of energy around the door. After replacing the vinyl seal, check to make sure the seal is tight around the door. You don't want it to fit too tightly or make it difficult to close. In general you should use one continuous piece of vinyl weather-stripping and make sure it meets at the corners.

**Step 1.** Open the door and slide or pull the door bottom off the door.

**Step 2.** Pull the vinyl seal out of its channel in the door bottom and bring it with you to purchase a replacement seal.

**Step 3.** Clean the channel with a brush and slide in a replacement vinyl seal, which is available in T and Y configurations. Door bottoms with seals already attached also are available.

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