When a door starts sticking, the cause is rarely mysterious for long. The real question is whether the problem lives in the hardware, the door slab, or the opening around it.

The trick is knowing which signs point to a repair and which ones point to replacement. A quick adjustment can save money when the door is sound. A replacement makes more sense when the door or frame has reached the point where every repair is temporary.

What Is Actually Causing The Door To Stick

Start with the easiest checks. Look at the hinges, the strike plate, the latch, and the gap around the door. If the top corner rubs only in one spot, a hinge screw may be loose or the frame may have shifted slightly. If the door scrapes the floor, the slab may have dropped or swollen from humidity.

Humidity can make a solid wood door tighten in the frame, and winter dryness can change the fit again. If the pattern comes and goes with the weather, the door may still be worth repairing.

A door that used to work well and now feels misaligned may be reacting to structural movement rather than normal wear. That matters, because replacing the slab alone will not solve an opening that is no longer square.

An experienced company can confirm the cause with a quick inspection.

The Repair Side Of The Decision

Repair is usually the right answer when the door itself is in good shape. Tightening hinge screws, replacing worn hardware, trimming a swollen edge, or resetting the strike plate can correct the problem without major cost.

These are the situations where repair usually wins. The sticking is minor, the door closes properly after a small adjustment, and there is no visible rot, splitting, or severe warping. In many homes, that means a straightforward service call is enough.

Cost matters, but it should be weighed against durability. A repair can be a smart short-term or medium-term solution when the underlying door remains serviceable.

Homeowners also ask how to fix drafty front doors in Texas summer and winter, and the answer is often not replacement. New weatherstripping, a better sweep, and hinge adjustments can close air leaks and reduce stickiness at the same time.

Signs The Door Has Outgrown Repair

When repairs become routine instead of corrective, replacement deserves a serious look. A door that keeps drifting out of alignment is usually telling you the structure or the slab has failed in a lasting way.

Rot, delamination, cracked stiles, and severe warping are strong replacement signals. Once moisture has damaged the core or the frame, you can patch the symptoms, but you are not restoring the original strength of the door.

When a door has lost its seal and the frame no longer supports a square fit, replacement can do more than stop sticking. It can improve comfort and reduce the ongoing maintenance headache.

Replacement is also worth considering if you want to change the door type or improve performance. For some Midlothian window replacement homes, a prehung door is the better solution because it includes the frame and

is easier to fit into an opening that has moved. For others, a slab replacement is enough if the frame is still solid and square.

How To Make The Call With Confidence

A simple rule helps: repair a door when the problem is localized and the structure is sound, replace it when the door, frame, or fit has failed in a broader way. That rule is not perfect, but it keeps you from overpaying for work that cannot last.

Age matters, but condition matters more. A newer door with a bad latch is worth fixing. An older door that has started to swell, sag, and leak at the same time may be nearing the end of its useful life.

It also helps to think about the rest of the opening. If the frame is out of square because of movement in the house, a new slab alone may not solve the problem. If the structure is stable and only the slab is worn, a replacement can work well. That is why experienced installers look at the whole opening, not just the part that is sticking.

When the cause is not obvious, a real inspection is worth more than guessing. Someone who works with doors every day can spot frame movement, wood failure, and hardware issues quickly.