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How To Repair a Sticking Door

We know you'd prefer not to, but let's talk about doors that won't open when you want them to. You stand there tugging and tugging, and nothing gives. Do you remember the last time the kid was locked in the bathroom behind such a door? Or you were, while a party was going on in your own home, and you had to yell for help? Doors stick for a variety of reasons. Here's a universal solution.

Utensils

Hammer
Medium flat blade screwdriver

Ingredients

Pencil
Masking tape Jack plane (sharp blade)

Approximate Time: 60 Minutes

1. Discover where door is sticking, and mark area(s) with erasable pencil (Fig. 26A).
2. Starting at bottom, remove pins from door hinges as shown in Figure 26B.
3. Label each pin with masking tape so it can be identified and returned later to its original position.
4. Now shake door slightly, and it will come away from frame.
5. Set door on floor, hinge-side down.
6. Examine outer edges of door to see which areas have been rubbed or chafed.
7. Measure and mark $1/16"$ to $1/18"$ inch parallel to chafed surface.
8. Plane down to mark.
9. If top or bottom of door has been chafed, take special care not to plane over edges, as this will cause splintering. Using marks as directed in steps 7 and 8, plane chafed areas from the edge toward the center, as shown in Figure 26C.
10. Bevel all edges and corner with plane as shown in Figure 26D.
11. Rehang door and replace hinge pins in original positions.
12. Procedure may be repeated to achieve perfect fit.
13. A $1/8"$ inch space at sides and top is optimum. A $1/4"$ to $1/8"$ inch space at bottom is standard.

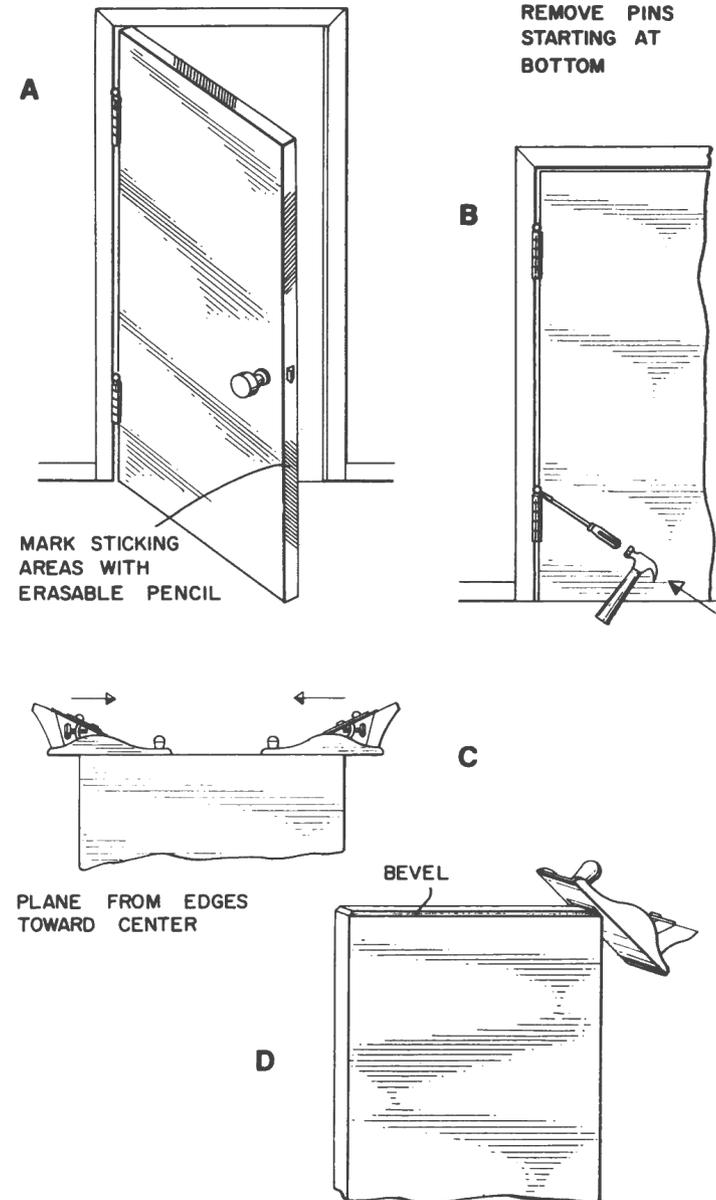


Figure 26.
Repairing a Sticking Door