

# BUILDERS REPAIR SOLUTIONS

## Aluminum Threshold Overlay – Installation Guide

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### Tools & Materials

- Eye protection
  - Angle grinder with cutoff wheel
  - Multitool with metal blade
  - Caulk gun
  - Clear silicone
  - 5-in-1 tool
  - Scissors
  - Metal file
  - ScotchBrite green pad
  - Paper towels
  - Nitrile gloves
  - Acetone
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### Before You Begin

- Measure the depth of your existing threshold. Most pre-built door thresholds are either **4" or 6"**.
  - If yours is 4", use the **built-in snap point at 4 7/16"**.
  - If your threshold is a non-standard depth, see **Custom Rip Instructions** at the end.
  - Ensure the existing threshold is structurally sound and free of loose material.
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### Snapping the Overlay to 4" (If Needed)

1. Place the overlay on a firm, elevated surface.
  2. Stabilize it with your foot.
  3. Position channellock pliers at the snap groove.
  4. Pry up and down to break the groove.
  5. Work 1–2 inches at a time until the strip releases.
  6. The first few snaps require the most force; it gets easier as you go.
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### Installation Steps

#### 1. Measure the Opening

Measure from jamb to jamb to determine the final cut length.

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#### 2. Cut the Overlay to Length

Use one of the following:

- Angle grinder with cutoff wheel
- Circular saw with a fine tungsten carbide non-ferrous blade
- Miter/chop saw with a fine tungsten non-ferrous blade
- Use gloves when working with freshly cut aluminum, as the edges can be sharp and hazardous.
- After cutting, file any burrs left from cutting smooth.

**Always wear eye protection when cutting aluminum.**

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#### 3. Undercut the Door Jambs

- Use a multitool with a metal blade.
- Use a scrap piece of overlay as a height guide so the overlay will slide under the jambs for a seamless fit.
- If overlaying a threshold with sidelights, undercut the mullions as well as the plastic strip at the sidelight.

**Always wear eye protection when using power cutting tools.**

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#### 4. Clean the Work Area

Remove all sawdust, metal shavings, and debris.

Verify the undercuts are clean and free of any cuttings or debris

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### 5. Test Fit the Overlay

Confirm the overlay:

- Slides under both jambs
- Sits flat
- Clears the weatherstripping

Trim weatherstripping as needed with a pair of scissors.

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### 6. Prep the Surfaces

- Use a ScotchBrite green pad to remove any mill marks or light scratches.
  - Put on nitrile gloves to protect your hands when using acetone and silicone. Safety glasses are also recommended.
  - Clean the existing threshold with acetone to remove dirt, oils, and contaminants.
  - Clean the underside of the overlay for maximum adhesion.
  - Clean the exposed side to remove any aluminum dust left from the ScotchBrite pad.
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### 7. Apply Silicone

- Run **vertical beads** of clear silicone across the existing threshold.
  - Space beads **2–3 inches apart**.
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### 8. Install the Overlay

- Slide the overlay into place.
  - Apply firm downward pressure.
  - Wipe away any silicone that squeezes out the back.
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### 9. Seal the Perimeter

Run a continuous silicone bead:

- Along both jamb sides
- Along the back edge

This locks the overlay in place and ensures a watertight seal.

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### 10. Allow to Cure

- Tape off the doorway to prevent foot traffic.
  - Allow **24 hours** for silicone to fully cure.
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### Custom Rip Instructions (Non-Standard Depths)

For thresholds that are a non-standard size:

- Measure the depth of the threshold to be repaired and add 1/4" to your measurement to allow for the thickness of the front edge (1/8") and 1/8" for any variation.

Use one of the following:

- **Table saw with a fine tungsten carbide blade** (best accuracy)
- Circular saw with a fine tungsten carbide blade
- Angle grinder (acceptable but harder to keep straight)
- Use gloves when working with freshly cut aluminum, as the edges can be sharp and hazardous.
- Use a metal file to remove any burrs from cutting.

**Always wear eye protection when cutting aluminum.**

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### Preparing the Overlay When Installing With Sidelights

For thresholds with sidelights, undercut the mullions and the plastic sidelight trim to ensure the overlay slides in cleanly.

Most pre-hung entry doors with sidelights have a screw driven up through the threshold into the sidelight mullions. **Do not cut these screws out** when undercutting the mullions.

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Follow these steps to prepare the overlay correctly:

### 1. Mark the Mullion Locations

Place the aluminum overlay flat on the existing threshold. Mark a line **¼ inch inside each actual edge** of the threshold. Use a **speed square** to extend these marks straight back to identify the mullion positions.

### 2. Measure the Mullion Depth

Measure from the **back of the existing threshold** to the **front face of the mullion**. Subtract **½ inch** from this measurement and mark that distance on the underside of the overlay.

### 3. Cut the Shoulder Relief

Using an **angle grinder with a cutoff wheel**, carefully cut along the marked lines to create the shoulder cuts. Use a pair of channel lock pliers to snap the piece out. This will allow the overlay to sit cleanly under the mullions **without removing the factory screws**.

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