

BUILDERS REPAIR SOLUTIONS

Aluminum Threshold Overlay – Installation Guide

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 ¼” 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.

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ **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 $\frac{1}{2}$ **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**.
