Start With The Source Of The Draft

When a door feels cold near the edges or lets in a strip of air on a windy day, the issue is usually somewhere in the seal, the alignment, or the hardware that holds everything closed.

A quick check with a flashlight at night can also help. Stand inside, turn off nearby lights, and look for thin lines of light around the jamb, the head, the latch side, and the threshold.

You should also look beyond the door itself. In many older homes, what seems like a door problem is really a frame problem, or even a foundation movement issue that has thrown the opening out of alignment.

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

The Usual Failure Points Behind A Drafty Door

If you can see daylight, feel air, or hear a whistle around the edges, weatherstripping vs door replacement for Dallas energy loss becomes a real decision instead of a theoretical one.

Thresholds, sweeps, and door bottoms take a lot of abuse, and older metal or wood parts often warp slightly over time.

In some houses, the slab is still solid, but the stop molding has shifted or the casing has gaps that let air move around the unit.

Materials matter too. Wood doors can swell, shrink, crack, and warp when they spend years in Texas heat, and many older doors in Preston Hollow show exactly that kind of wear.

What Actually Fixes The Problem

If the door itself is sound, small repairs can go a long way. Replacing weatherstripping, adjusting strike plates, and installing a fresh bottom sweep often solves the draft for far less than window services Dallas a full replacement.

There are a few fixes that come up again and again: - Replace compressed or cracked weatherstripping with a profile that matches the frame.

- Adjust hinges or strike plates so the slab closes more evenly.
- Install or replace the door sweep and threshold insert.
- Re-caulk gaps where the trim meets the wall or the frame.
- Add insulation or a better seal around sidelights and transoms if they are present.

That said, repairs have limits. If the door slab is warped, the frame is out of square, or the bottom edge has rotted, you can spend good money chasing leaks that keep coming back.

If you have already replaced the sweep, added seals, and tightened the hardware, but the gap remains, the opening may need to be rebuilt or the whole unit replaced.

When Replacement Is The Better Call

If the slab no longer sits flush, the lock side pulls away, or the threshold has too much wear to correct, a new door can be the more honest fix.

Steel doors can be efficient and secure, but they need quality finish maintenance and good installation to avoid corrosion or edge issues.

If you are comparing options, do not focus only on appearance. Look at the frame system, the threshold design, the weather seals, and whether the installer will correct the rough opening before hanging the new slab.

When in doubt, ask the contractor how they handle do I need a permit to replace an exterior door in Dallas before the project starts.

Getting The Most Life Out Of The Fix

A properly sealed door does more than block air. It also helps with dust, humidity swings, and the general wear that comes from a unit slamming against a loose frame.

In older Preston Hollow homes, small movement is normal, so catching a gap early can save a bigger repair later.

For a home that has already seen decades of heat, settling, and seasonal movement, a tight, well-fitted door is one of the simplest upgrades you can make without changing the character of the house.