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How to Rodent Proof Midsized Vertically Opening Doors such as Sectional and Single Panel Garage Doors

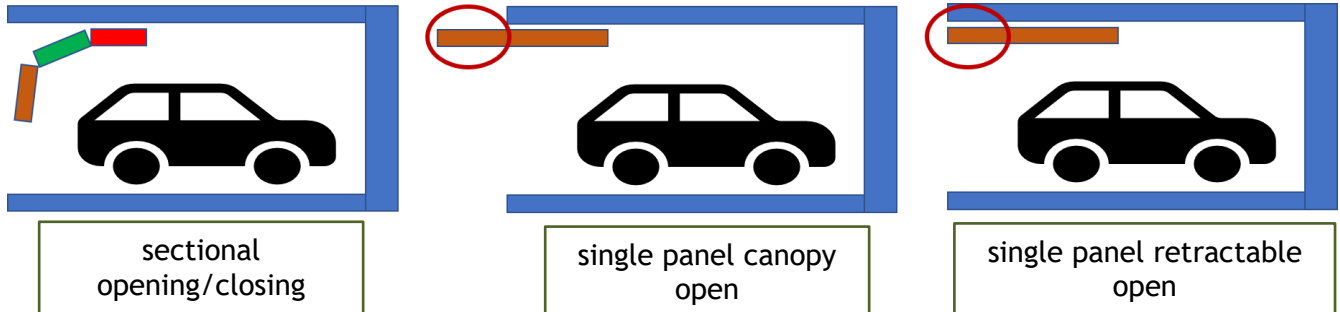
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Doors and the Gaps

This is a guide to the rodent proofing of threshold gaps and side gaps of midsized vertically opening doors such as sectional doors, single panel canopy doors, and single panel retractable doors with Ro-deXit's All-In-One general purpose rodent proofing seal (the AIO):



With a single layer of the AIO you can proof up to 1.4 in (35 mm) wide gaps.

With a double layer you can proof up to 2 in (5 cm) wide gaps.

1.2 Featherlight Contact Only

The AIO should make featherlight contact only with the threshold and the side jambs, so do not press the AIO hard against any of them.



1.3 The Bottom Weather Seal

If the bottom weather seal under the door is OK, leave it on.

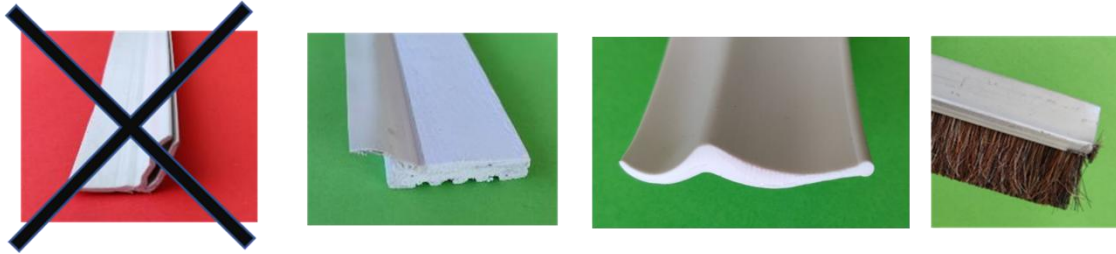


If the bottom weather seal isn't OK, replace it and recalibrate the door opener if any before installing the AIO. Take care to observe all security instructions in the owner's manual.

1.4 The Side Seals of Sectional Doors

If a sectional door is equipped with side seals of the clip-on reverse angle jamb type (clipped onto the door tracks), and there isn't sufficient space between the door and the side seal,

- dismantle the side seals and
- install ordinary polymer side seals or brush seals as replacements after installing the AIO:



Polymer side seals on the side jambs of sectional doors are sometimes installed too close to the door. If so, the side seals will press hard against the AIO and may generate excessive friction during closing operations. That problem may be fixed in one or more of the following ways:

- Lubricate the inner side of the side seals and/or the corresponding part of the AIO e.g. with plant-based oil or axle grease.
- Increase the opening and closing power of the opener – if any.
 - Check the owner's manual and follow the instructions.
- Adjust the position of the side seals.
- Replace the side seals with new and better positioned polymer side seals or brush side seals.



2 INSTALLATION WITH SCREWS AND WASHERS

2.1 Tools and Materials

You will need these tools and materials:

- 1) A roll of the AIO.
- 2) Straight tin snips for trimming the AIO.
- 3) Suitable flatheaded screws for example 1 inch (25 mm) long No. 10 (4.8 mm) hex head screws or pan head screws.

It is generally a good idea to use hex head self-drilling screws with a drill point when proofing a metal door.

- 4) Washers.
- 5) A screw bit.
- 6) A cordless screwdriver.
- 7) Possibly: A drill bit for drilling pilot holes.



8) OPTIONAL

In order to get both hands free for driving in screws it is handy to have a couple of heavy objects that can hold the AIO in place.



2.2 Proofing the Threshold Gap

The AIO shall be mounted on the exterior side of the door.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Possibly: Dismount any side seals of the clip-on reverse angle jamb type in accordance with section 1.5.
- 2) Close the door completely.
- 3) If there is a motorized opener, unplug it.
- 4) If there is a left side seal, tuck the free end of the roll behind it:



under polymer side seal
installed on side jamb



under brush side seal
installed on the door

If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seal:

- loosen the side seal or
- dismount it and remount it after installing the AIO.

- 5) Secure the free end of the roll to the left side of the door:



no side seal



side seal installed
on side jamb



side seal installed
on door

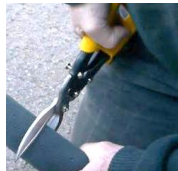
If the door is a retractable single panel door, the AIO shouldn't extend beyond the left edge of the door panel if there is a risk that the AIO will collide with the door jamb during opening and/or closing.

Otherwise, it is OK to let the AIO extend all the way to the left side jamb.

- 6) Unroll a little more of the AIO than you need for proofing the threshold gap:



- 7) Cut off a slightly oversized piece.



- 8) Place a screw with a washer in every or every second of one of the upper screw hole markings from left to right until you are around 2 feet (60 cm) from the right-side jamb – if necessary, after drilling pilot holes in the door:



Please note that all the screws must be secured firmly in solid structural parts of the door – e.g. in the wood frame of a wooden door or in the base of a metal door – and that you therefore in some cases may have to place screws somewhere else than in the screw hole markings of the AIO.

- 9) Trim the right end of the oversized AIO.

If the door is a retractable single panel door, the AIO shouldn't extend beyond the right edge of the door panel if there is a risk that the AIO will collide with the door jamb during opening and/or closing.

Otherwise, it is OK to let it extend all the way to the right-side jamb.



10) If there is a right side seal, tuck the free right end of the trimmed AIO behind the side seal:



under polymer side seal
installed on side jamb



under brush side seal
installed on the door

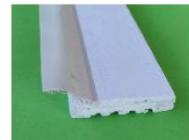
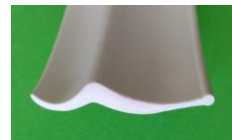
If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seal:

- loosen the side seal or
- dismount it and remount it after installing the AIO.

11) Secure the last 2 feet (60 cm) of the AIO to the door.



12) Retighten any loosened side seals, reinstall any temporarily dismantled side seals, and install any replacement side seals.



13) Open and close the door in order to secure that it operates satisfactorily.



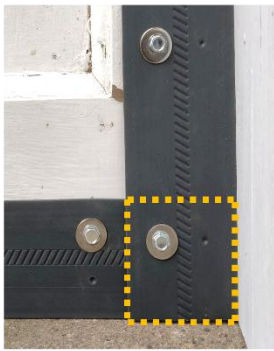
If the door is a sectional door with polymer side seals, and there is too much friction between the side seals and the AIO, you can solve the problem in the ways described in section 1.5.

2.3 Proofing the Side Gaps

2.3.1 Overlapping and Adjoining Installation of the AIO

When proofing the side gaps the AIO is secured to the door in almost the same way as when you proof the threshold gap. Use a top-down approach.

The pieces that meet in the corners may be installed overlapping or just adjoining. If a brush side seal is installed on the door, it may be loosened and used as a mounting strip:



Overlapping



Adjoining
no side seal



Adjoining with
brush side seal

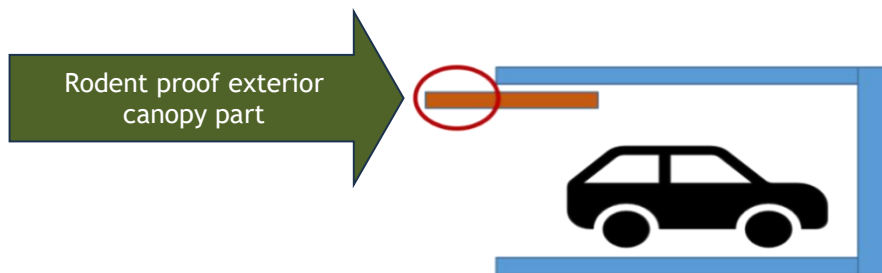


Adjoining with
polymer side seal

2.3.2 The Side Gaps of Canopy Doors, Sectional Doors, and Retractable Doors

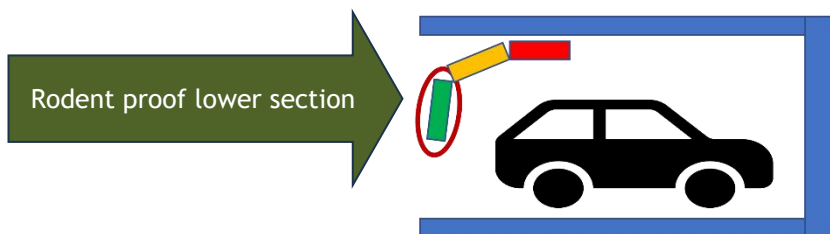
A. The Side Gaps of Canopy Doors

The lower part of the side gaps of a canopy door that corresponds to the exterior canopy part can as a main rule be rodent proofed with the AIO without any risk of impeding the opening and closing:



B. The Side Gaps of Sectional Doors

It is often feasible to rodent proof the side gaps of the lower section of a sectional door without any risk of impeding the opening and closing:



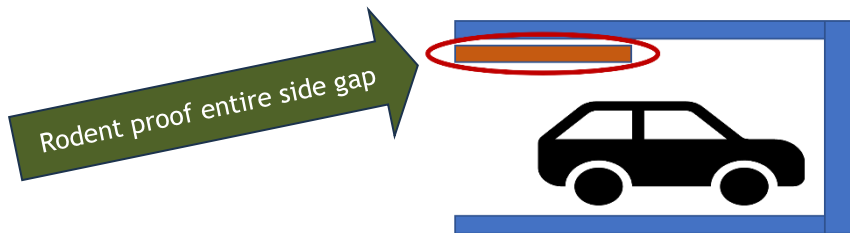
If there are polymer side seals on the jambs, do not install the horizontal and vertical pieces of the AIO overlapping. It would increase the risk of generating excessive friction between the overlapping AIO pieces and the side seals.

Should the AIO rub excessively against the side seals if any or the side jambs, try to adjust the position of the AIO pieces and/or try to solve the problem in the way described in section 1.5.

C. The Side Gaps of Retractable Doors

If short pieces of the AIO are installed as side seals on the lower part of a retractable door, there is a risk that the short pieces of the AIO will collide with the side jambs during closing. That would compromise the closing. So do not try to rodent proof the side gaps in that way.

If long pieces of the AIO are installed as side seals all the way from the top to the bottom of the retractable door, the above-described collision problem can be eliminated. However, there is a risk that rubbing against the side jambs will create excessive friction. Therefore, you should take the friction risk into consideration if you rodent proof the side gaps in that way.



3 HOW TO PIMP UP THE LOOKS

3.1 The Many Possibilities

If you want to pimp up the looks to something flashier, it can be done in a good many ways. Here are some examples:



matching wood



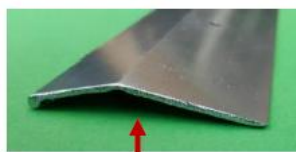
painted wood



aluminum carpet trim

3.2 Recommended Mounting Strips

RodeXit recommends angled aluminum carpet trims, because they are inexpensive and can cover the upper edge of the AIO:



angled aluminum
carpet trim



upper edge of an installed angled
aluminum carpet trim

RodeXit specifically recommends these angled aluminum carpet trims with predrilled holes from MD Building Products:

Recommended for	Height	Width	Length	Surface	Universal Product Code (UPC #)
Single layer installations	0.2 in (5 mm)	2 in (51 mm)	36-72 in (91-183 cm)	Fluted	e.g. 43374438581
Double layer installations	0.5 in (13 mm)	2 in (51 mm)	36-72 in (91-183 cm)	Smooth	e.g. 43374660845

Both recommended carpet trims can be trimmed by means of tin snips.

The carpet trims from MD Building Products come in different colors and lengths with different UPC numbers. The above stated UPC numbers are for the “silver” colored and 36 in (91 cm) long versions.

Double layer installations are used A) when the gap is more than 1.4 in (35 mm) and B) when a very high degree of protection is required – for example when the rodent pressure is very high.

Double layer installation with a
2 in (51 mm) wide carpet trim



3.3 Pimping Up the Looks with the Recommended Mounting Strips

In the following it is assumed that you use some of the recommended aluminum carpet trims from MD Building Products (hereinafter called: “Mounting Strips”). What is stated about the use of them will apply mutatis mutandis to the use of most other mounting strips.

3.3.1 Tools and Materials

You will need the tools and materials listed in section 2.1 and on top of that:

1) Sufficient Mounting Strips



2) Widgets for temporarily attaching the AIO to the door e.g.

- if the door is a wooden door: a staple gun with suitable staples, or
- if the door is a metal door: double-sided tape such as 3M VHB LSE-110WF tape.



3) OPTIONAL

A couple of around 2 pounds (1 kg) heavy objects for holding the Mounting Strips in place during the installation.



4) Possibly a drill bit for drilling extra holes in the Mounting Strips.



3.3.2 Proofing the Threshold Gap

The AIO is installed by means of Mounting Strips in the same way as by means of screws and washers except for the following:

- 1) The free end of the AIO roll shall be temporarily attached to the left side of the door e.g. by means of A) a staple if the door is a wooden door and B) double-sided tape if the door is a metal door (instead of by means of a screw).



no side seal



side seal installed
on side jamb



side seal installed
on door

- 2) Roll out and cut off an oversized piece of the AIO.
- 3) If the door is a wooden door: Attach the AIO to the door blade by means of staples placed in the uppermost 1 in (2.5 cm).

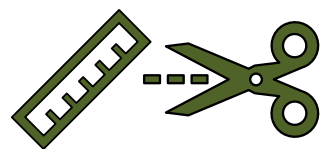


If the door is a metal door: Attach the AIO to the door blade e.g. by means of pieces of double-sided tape.



- 4) Trim the right end of the AIO as described in section 2.2.
- 5) With your tin snips trim the Mounting Strips:

Door Panel	Trimming
If the door panel is wider than the door opening	Trim the Mounting Strips to the width of the door opening.
Otherwise	Trim the Mounting Strips to the width of the panel minus 1 in (2½ cm)



- 6) If the door is equipped with side seals, tuck the ends of the trimmed Mounting Strips behind the side seals:



Tucked behind brush seals on the door



Tucked behind polymer seals on the jambs



If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seals:

- loosen them,
- dismount them and remount them after installing the AIO, or
- shorten the Mounting Strips.

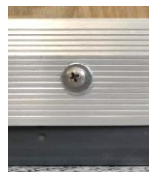
7) OPTIONAL

Use a couple of around 2 pounds (1 kg) heavy objects for holding the Mounting Strips in place.



- 8) Screw the Mounting Strips onto the door (if necessary, after drilling pilot holes in the door).

Don't let the Mounting Strips extend below the bottom edge of the door. It would compromise safety.



Use suitable screws – usually not the ones that come with the Mounting Strips if any as they tend to be of poor quality.

It is no problem if your screws are slightly thicker than the predrilled holes of the Mounting Strips. Slightly thicker screws will automatically widen the holes when they are driven in.

Don't use too much force. You risk denting the Mounting Strips. You can reduce the risk if you use washers.



3.3.3 Proofing the Side Gaps

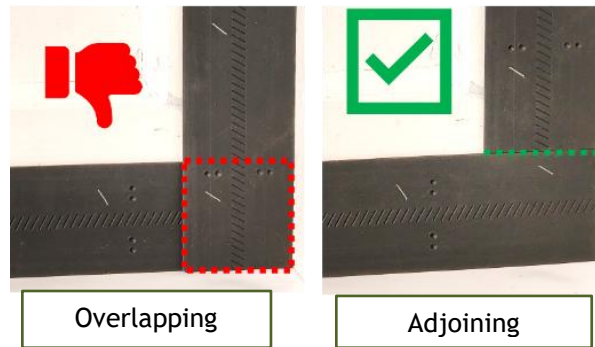
As explained in section 2.3 above

- the lower part of the side gaps of single panel canopy doors and sectional doors may be proofed with the AIO, and
- it may be feasible to proof the side gaps of single panel retractable doors with the AIO if you proof the entire side gaps.

The 2 pieces of AIO are installed vertically on the door leaf with Mounting Strips in much the same way as when installed by means of screws and washers only.

The distance between the vertical Mounting Strips and the side jambs should be at least 1 in (2½ cm).

Let the horizontal and vertical pieces of AIO adjoin in the 2 corners. Don't let them overlap.



The best way to join the vertical and horizontal Mounting Strips is to install the vertical Mounting Strips so

- they adjoin the upper edge of the horizontal Mounting Strips, and
- they align with the ends of the horizontal Mounting Strips:



That should ideally be taken into consideration already when the horizontal Mounting Strips are trimmed.

4 MOUNTING BY MEANS OF DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE



Using double-sided tape instead of screws and washers may be relevant:

- If screw holes are undesirable – e.g. if the AIO is to be mounted on a very fine wooden door.
- If it for some reason is impossible to secure the AIO by means of screws.
- If you are about to rodent proof a motorized door, and there is a risk that screws will damage the electronic safety mechanism of the door when they are driven in.

The AIO is mounted by means of double-sided tape in much the same way as when it is mounted by means of screws and washers.

On www.rodexit.com you can download a PDF mounting guide to the use of double-sided tape for installing the AIO.



5 TIPS AND TRICKS

5.1 Monitoring and Maintenance

All rodent-proofed doors should at regular intervals be monitored for maintenance needs. The rodent proofing seals should be fixed or replaced if they e.g. due to severe rodent attacks are seriously compromised.



5.2 Further Instructional Materials

On www.rodexit.com you can

- watch an instructional video on how to rodent proof vertically opening doors and
- access further instructional materials in the form of videos, PowerPoint presentations, and PDF guides.



5.3 If a Very High Degree of Protection is Required

Under normal circumstances it is sufficient to install a single layer. If a particularly high degree of protection is required – for example because of a very high rodent pressure – you should consider installing a double layer:

A double layer is installed in the same way as a single layer.



5.4 How to Handle Very Uneven or Rough Thresholds

It is easy to solve the often-occurring problem that the ground settles:



You simply cut the AIO in several pieces and mount them overlapping and at an angle:



If the problem is small indentations in the threshold that allow insects to pass under the AIO, you can supplement the AIO with a brush strip that conforms better to the uneven surface:



Supplemented with a 2 in (50 mm) wide brush strip used as mounting strip



Supplemented with a 2 in (50 mm) wide brush strip and installed with a 1 3/8 in (35 mm) wide carpet trim

5.5 Repair by Reuse

Because the AIO is symmetrical, it can be reused if the lower part has been worn or otherwise damaged. You simply dismount the AIO, turn it upside-down and remount it.



This is especially a beneficial option when the AIO is mounted by means of a mounting strip, because the damaged part of the AIO will be hidden behind the mounting strip.



Damaged part of AIO hidden behind mounting strip

5.6 Repair by Partial Replacement

If a part of the AIO has been damaged – e.g. because of severe rat attacks – the AIO can be repaired simply by cutting off the damaged part and replacing it with a new piece of AIO.



In order to maintain proper rodent resistance the new piece of AIO may not be shorter than 2 feet (60 cm).

Likewise no part of the remaining old AIO may be shorter than 2 feet (60 cm).



5.7 Tin Snips and the Use Thereof

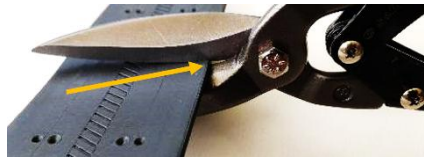
The quality of tin snips varies a lot. Some are useless. RodeXit recommends these straight tin snips:

- Stanley Fatmax 14-566 with long blades
- Stanley Fatmax FMHT 73756
- Stanley Fatmax 14-563
- DEWALT DWHT 14675
- DEWALT DWHT 14694 with short bullnose blades



The longer the blades are the easier it is to make straight.

It is not rocket science, but it makes a lot of difference. You should open the gap of the tin snips completely and firmly drag the AIO / the aluminum mounting strip as far as possible in between the blades before cutting:



If the blades are forced apart when you try to cut, it may be because you do not hold the AIO at a right angle to the blades of the tin snips. It may also be because the main screw of the tin snips isn't sufficiently tight.



5.8 Reduction of the Width of the AIO

The width of the AIO can easily be reduced with tin snips.

The parallel steel wires in the AIO will guide the splitting of the AIO, so you always will get a fairly straight cut.

If you install the split AIO by means of a mounting strip, you should hide the cut edge under the mounting strip.



5.9 A Very Useful Homemade Tool

If you on a regular basis install the AIO by means of some sort of mounting strip, it is a good idea to make a simple and inexpensive “third hand” tool that is capable of

- holding the AIO in place and at the same time
- elevating and holding a mounting strip in place.

The tool can be made from

- a 1 - 1¼ in (2½ - 3 cm) thick and around 2 pound (1 kg) heavy piece of wood (preferably of heavy wood such as oak) and
- two around 2½ in (6½ cm) long screws.

You place a screw around 1 in (2½ cm) from each end of the piece of wood and around ½ in (13 mm) from the edge, and drive in the screws around 1 in (2½ cm), so the distance between the screw heads and the wood is around 1½ in (4 cm). The finished tool should look somewhat like this:



This is how the tool is used:



It is best to have 2 – especially when proofing wide doors.