

knock, knock  
**WHO'S THERE?**

# BARN DOOR

**The farmhouse-style staple is as popular as ever. No wonder! These doors are charming and super-functional, too. Flip the page for some major inspo.**

[fun decorating]

## FOR YOUR *laundry room*

Even a cute laundry zone like this one in Salt Lake City, UT, needs to be closed off sometimes—and the family wanted to do it in style. Designer Ashley Winn outfitted it with a custom double-X barn door, painted Sunset by Sherwin-Williams. As she says, “A barn door can add so much personality to a space.”

### QUESTION

*Can anyone have a barn door?*

Yes, if you have the wall space. Plan for enough to accommodate the width of the door when it's fully open plus at least 6 inches of clearance between the door and the ceiling to hang the track system. Remember, the door should be bigger than the doorway—an extra inch above and 2 inches on either side. Since barn doors don't seal openings like regular doors do, they're not ideal for a hallway bathroom, for privacy's sake.



Handle-free doors look oh-so-barn-ish, but you can always add one for easier opening.



## FOR YOUR *pantry*

You don't necessarily need a special door—this one, in designer Brooke Rose's Piedmont, MO, home, was an exterior door on an old house owned by her husband's family. They painted it (Black by Behr), added a sign (from Hobby Lobby), and popped on a white doorknob. “It's a big statement piece and a bit of family history,” says Brooke. “Open or closed, it looks great!”

### QUESTION

*Which style is right?*

If rustic isn't your thing, flat-panel doors and ones with glass panes look most modern. Hollow-core kinds, which are lighter and less expensive, work for pantries and closets. For bedrooms, solid-core doors are best because they muffle more sound. Find them at home improvement stores and online at sites like Wayfair and White Shanty.

## fun decorating



If you want a quieter glide, try “silent” rollers—standard metal ones can be noisy.

## FOR YOUR *living room*

Dream of an open floor plan—with the option of separate spaces? Barn doors for the win! In this Westport, CT, home, designer Sarah Weiland had the builder make custom doors and install them between the living room and the den. “We were going for a beachy-farmhouse look,” she says. “A simple Z-pattern with vertical shiplap marries the two styles.”

### QUESTION

*Got any tips for hardware?*

Before buying a barn door hardware kit, know your door’s dimensions *and* weight, since every kit has a maximum weight. The most popular and sturdiest hangers (face mount) attach to the front of the door and look like straps. They sometimes hide the rollers. Good sources for kits are Artisan Hardware, Emtek, and Signature Hardware.

FROM TOP: DAN MURDOCH; MALI AZIMA

## FOR YOUR *dining room*

This set of doors camouflages a storage and utility closet—pretty genius. Atlanta, GA, designers Emily Dunn and Meriwether McAdams did not hold back on the color (it’s Daffodil by Sherwin-Williams). “The effect is like art on the wall!” says Emily. Barn doors can also be used to hide stuff in cubbies in a mudroom and TVs in built-ins.

### QUESTION

*How do you hang ‘em up?*

If there’s trim around a doorway, the track for the barn door has to be installed on wood backing (also called a header or backer board) to extend it past the trim. You’ll also need floor guides that keep a door from swinging out, included in most kits. Installing a barn door is a doable DIY. Rather hire a pro? They can get it done in a few hours.





A "soft-close" mechanism added to the track can avoid banging.

## FOR YOUR *bedroom*

As appealing as barn doors are, they're also smart space-savers if you lack the clearance for a standard door, like in this bedroom in Kaysville, UT. "I started with a flat door and had a local woodworking company add slats to make it cool," says designer Andrea West (it's painted Grasshopper by Sherwin-Williams). The angles play off the ones in the wallpaper and pillows—even more cool.

## low-commitment BARN DOORS



### wall cabinet

Cates 21½"W x 8"D x 28"H wood and metal wall storage cabinet in white, \$170, [kateandlaurel.com](http://kateandlaurel.com)



### chest

Gracie Oaks Ruth 31½"W x 15½"D x 31¾"H manufactured wood and metal cabinet in Sargent, \$150, [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com)



### chalkboard

Glitzhome 15¾"W x 2½"D x 19¾"H wood, iron, and chalkboard memo board, \$65, [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)