

****A resident's guide to fire doors**

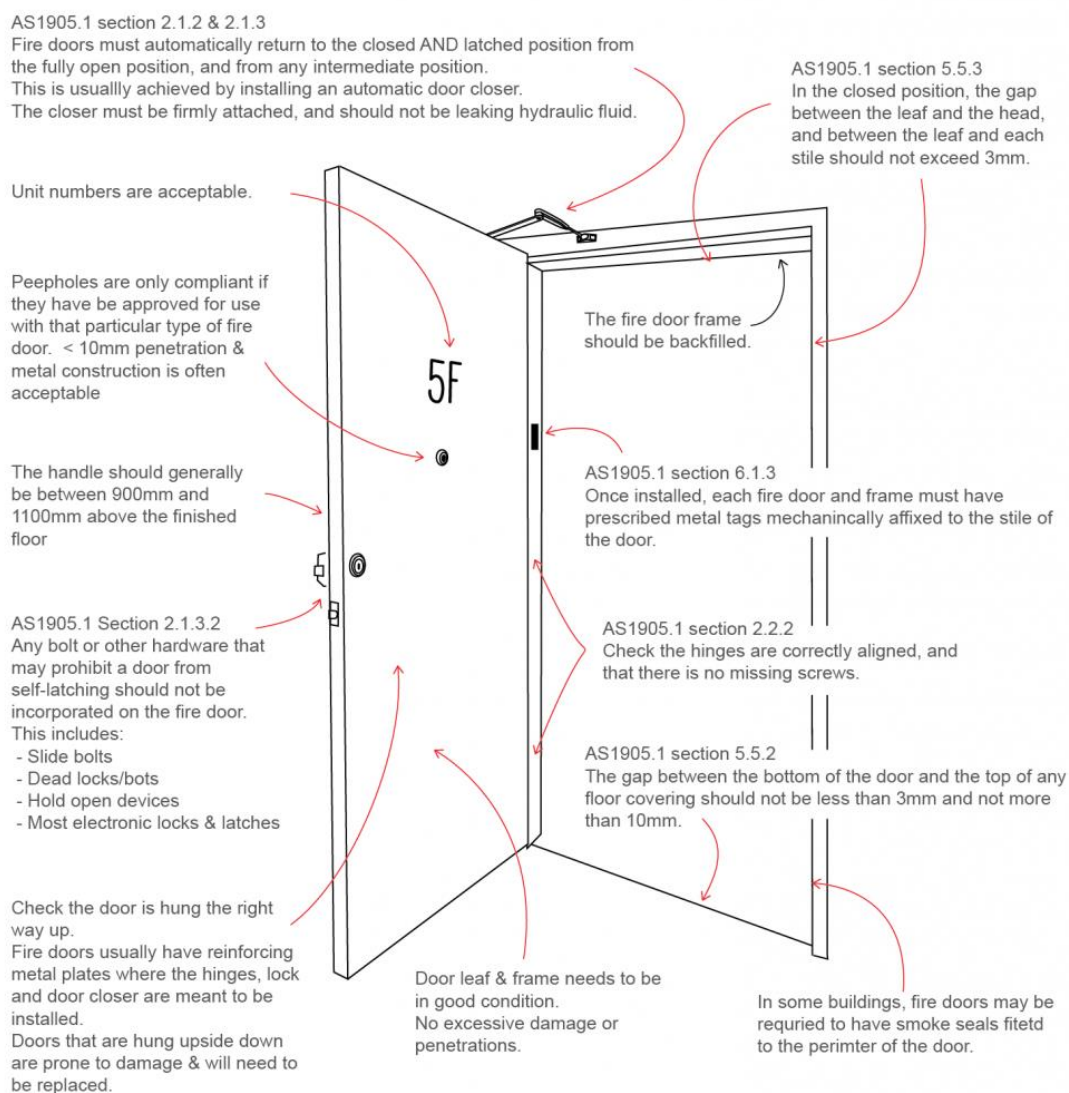
Most people don't realise that the front entry door to their unit is actually required to have a fire rating i.e it is a fire door.

Apartments in residential buildings are usually separate fire compartments to their neighbours and the shared corridors. The reasoning behind this is that if there is a fire in a unit, the fire should be trapped in the unit and not spread throughout the rest of the building (the smoke alarm will have already alerted the resident to escape).

The annual fire inspection

The building's fire contractor will need to check the door once per year at the annual fire inspection. *Very generally speaking*, the fire door needs to be able to self-close & self-latch from every point of the open swing of the door, and it needs to be tight fitting in the frame. The inspection also checks no additional non-compliant hardware has been installed.

This outline is determined by the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Australian Standard for components for the protection of openings – AS1905.1.











****This information has been adapted from <https://www.civilfire.com.au/a-residents-guide-to-fire-doors/>**

Can I install additional hardware on my fire door?

In short, the answer to this question is no. Hardware refers to the additional equipment that is installed on the door, including locksets, hinges, pivots, closers & peep holes.

Any hardware that is installed on a fire door must be tested and approved for that particular brand of fire door. This eliminates a lot of hardware that may be appropriate for use on a non-fire rated door, such as a digital lockset.

Any hardware that could stop the door from self-closing and self-latching, such as a deadbolt hold open device or door guard, is also not permitted.

	<p>Security viewer / peephole</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Can be installed for extra security</p>		<p>001/002 Deadlatch</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>A deadlatch enables the door to self-latch.</p>
	<p>Door closer</p> <p>Approved A door closer must <i>always</i> be installed an operational in order for the door to self-close.</p> <p>This is a mandatory item and should NOT be removed from your fire door.</p>		<p>Mortise deadlatch</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>A deadlatch enables the door to self-latch.</p>
	<p>Deadbolt</p> <p>DO NOT INSTALL</p> <p>The tongue does not automatically retract, therefore the door may not self-latch.</p>		<p>Door guard</p> <p>DO NOT INSTALL</p> <p>Has the potential to stop the door from self-latching</p>
	<p>Electronic Locks</p> <p>DO NOT INSTALL</p> <p>The vast majority of door manufacturers DO NOT have approval for electronic locks*.</p> <p><i>*Lockwood Cortex® Digital Door Lock has recently been approved for use on the 3 major fire door brands.</i></p>		<p>Hold-open devices (any type)</p> <p>DO NOT INSTALL</p> <p>Has the potential to stop the door from closing.</p>

Do not install any additional hardware to your fire door unless you are sure it has been approved by the manufacturer. You should avoid modifying your fire door in any way.