Pocket, sliding and *pivot doors*

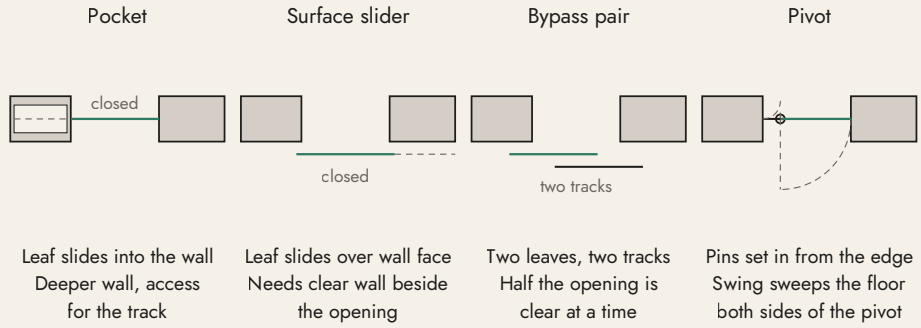
How pocket, sliding and pivot doors hang, what they need from the wall, and how to specify weight against hardware rating.

Compliance guidance. Figures marked as examples are read from one maker's data sheet each and are not rules. Requirements are from Approved Document K, 2013 edition (England), Section 10, read on 7 November 2026; check the current edition, the project fire strategy, building control and the hardware maker's data sheet for the door you are specifying. This is guidance, not legal, fire safety or structural advice. The studio coordinates manufacture through partner workshops; it does not claim that any partner supplies any particular mechanism, and this sheet carries no cost figure.

AT A GLANCE

Item	How it works	What it needs or example data	Note
Pocket door (frame kit)	Leaf slides into a cavity in the wall; the kit forms the pocket.	Example kit, May 2025: up to 120 kg; 35 or 44 mm leaf; finished wall 125 mm, internal space 69 mm.	One data sheet. Another kit will differ.
Surface sliding door	Leaf runs on a track in front of the wall.	Clear wall length beside the opening; a structure that carries the track load.	Outside dwellings, a stop and a retaining rail are required (ADK 10.1b).
Bypass pair	Two leaves on two tracks pass each other.	As the surface slider, with a wider track set.	Only part of the opening is clear at once.
Pivot door	Leaf turns on pins set in from the edge, at floor and head or in the leaf.	Example hinge, 2015 documentation: up to 500 kg, 2,000 mm from pivot to end of door, leaf from 40 mm thick.	Closing force depends on width and series. Check floor fixing.
Door weight	Work out the leaf with all its parts; ask the maker for the hardware's rated load.	Rated load, door weight and the factor between them are for the hardware maker to confirm.	Paste-in wording below. No factor is quoted here.
Fire, acoustic, escape	Often not covered by the mechanism's rating.	A fire rating attaches to a tested doorset; see the fire door guides.	We found no source for a fire rating of a pocket set.

Example figures are from one maker's document each (a pocket kit, revision May 2025; a pivot hinge, created 2015) and are not rules. Read 7 November 2026.



Plans, schematic, not to scale. Hardware and fire, acoustic and escape rules differ for each.

Pocket, surface slider, bypass pair and pivot doors in plan. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

REMEMBER

Get the finished leaf weight and the hardware's rated load, with the factor between them, in writing. Settle the pocket wall build-up and the access to the track early. Outside dwellings, sliding doors need a stop and a retaining rail.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DOOR WEIGHT

Door leaf [reference] finished weight not to exceed [x] kg, as stated on the approved shop drawing. Door weight to include face finishes, glass, inlay, lippings and ironmongery.

HARDWARE RATING

Track, kit or pivot units to have a rated load not less than [factor] times the finished leaf weight, the factor to be confirmed in writing by the hardware maker [and structural engineer]. Rated load to be stated with accessories fitted (soft-close, dampers). Hardware to be tested to BS EN 1527 [edition to be confirmed] for sliding and folding doors, or the maker to state why not.

SAFETY FEATURES

Sliding doors to be fitted with a stop or other effective means to prevent them coming off the end of the track and a retaining rail to prevent the door falling if the suspension fails or the rollers leave the track [outside dwellings: Approved Document K, 10.1(b)]. Vision panels as the fire and accessibility reports require.

POCKET WALL

Pocket doors to be fitted in a [metal / timber] stud wall of [x] mm finished thickness to the kit manufacturer's data sheet. No services or fixings within the pocket zone. Access to track and rollers by [removable head lining / access panel] as shown on drawing [ ].

PIVOT

Pivot door floor and head units to be rated for the leaf weight and width stated, with the maker's fixing requirements into [slab / screed / head structure] confirmed by the structural engineer.

TERMS USED

Pocket door

A door that slides on a track into a hollow within the wall rather than swinging, saving swing space but needing a deeper wall build-up.

Pivot door

A door hung from pivots at the top and bottom, set in from the edge, instead of side hinges, which allows very large leaves.

Retaining rail

A rail that stops a sliding door falling if its suspension fails or the rollers leave the track. Approved Document K 10.1(b) asks for one, and for a stop at the end of the track, on sliding doors outside dwellings.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document K: Protection from falling, collision and impact (2013 edition, England): Requirement K6; Section 10, 10.1 and 10.2. Read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 1527 Building hardware: hardware for sliding doors and folding doors: BSI Knowledge listing: scope read; status not settled; standard not read.
- Pocket door kit data sheet (one maker, revision May 2025) and pivot hinge technical documentation (one maker, 2015): examples only; makers named in the notes file.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/pocket-sliding-and-pivot-doors. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.