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# How to Rodent Proof Midsized Vertically Opening Doors such as Sectional and Single Panel Garage Doors October 2023

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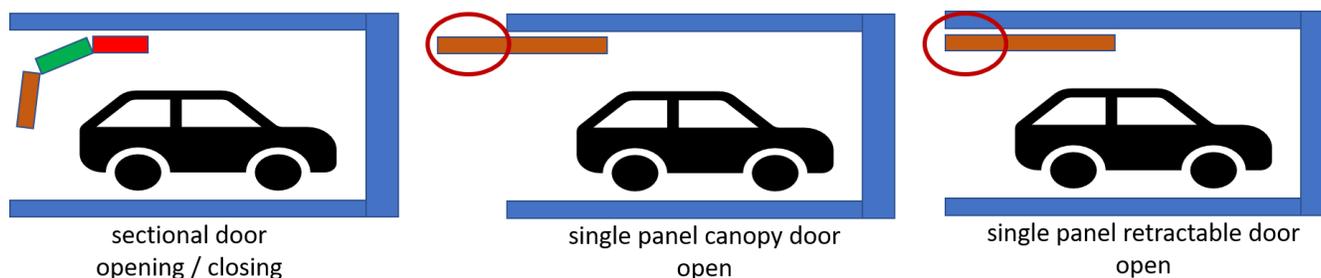
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# 1 IMPORTANT INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Gaps and the Doors

This is a guide to the rodent proofing of midsized vertically opening doors such as sectional and single panel doors:



With a single layer of RodeXit seal 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.

There is another guide to the rodent proofing of large vertically opening doors.

## 1.2 All Screws Must be Firmly Secured

All screws used for installing RodeXit seals 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.



Because of that the screws may have to be placed somewhere else than in the dot-shaped screw hole markings – for example like this:



## 1.3 Featherlight Contact Only

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



## 1.4 The Bottom Weather Seal

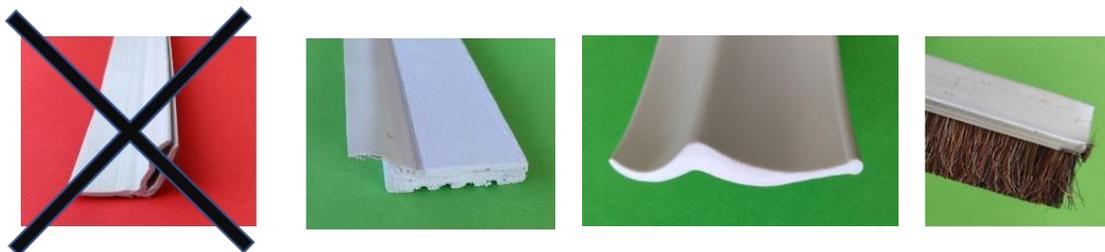
If the bottom weather seal under the door is OK, leave it on.



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

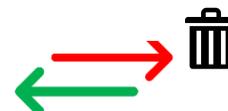
## 1.5 The Side Seals of Sectional Doors

If a sectional door is equipped with side seals of the clip-on reverse angle jamb type (clipped onto the door tracks), you have to A) dismount the side seals and B) install ordinary polymer side seals or brush seals as replacements after installing the RodeXit seal:



Polymer side seals on sectional doors are sometimes installed too close to the door leaf. If so, the side seals may press hard against the RodeXit seal and 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 e.g. with plant-based oil.
- Adjust 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.



## 1.6 Monitoring and Maintenance

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



## 2 INSTALLATION WITH SCREWS AND WASHERS

### 2.1 Tools and Materials

You will need these tools and materials:

- 1) A roll of rodent resistant All-In-One or WAVE seal.
- 2) Tin snips for trimming the seal – preferably straight tin snips with long blades.
- 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 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 in the door.



In order to get both hands free for driving in the screws it is handy to have:

- some heavy objects for holding the seal in place during the installation,
- blobs of sticky power tack for temporarily attaching the seal, and/or
- a staple gun and staples for temporarily attaching the seal.



## 2.2 Proofing the Threshold Gap

The RodeXit seal shall be mounted on the exterior side of the door.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Dismount any side seals of the clip-on reverse angle jamb type (see 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:



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb



Tucked 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 RodeXit seal.

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



No side seal.



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb.



Tucked under brush side seal installed on the door.

If the door is a retractable single panel door, the seal shouldn't extend beyond the left edge of the door panel. Otherwise, it is OK to let it extend all the way to the left side jamb.

- 6) Unroll a little more of the seal 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:



OR



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

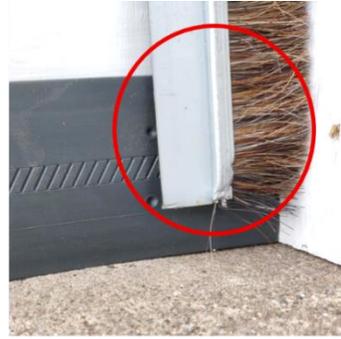
If the door is a retractable single panel door, the seal shouldn't extend beyond the right edge of the door leaf. Otherwise, it is OK to let it extend all the way to the right side jamb.



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



Tucked under stop molding side seal installed on the side jamb.



Tucked under brush side seal installed on the door.

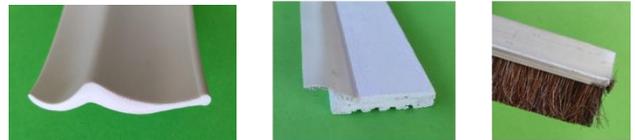
If there isn't sufficient room behind the side seal:

- loosen the side seal or
- dismantle it and remount it after installing the RodeXit seal.

11) Secure the last 2 feet (60 cm) of the seal 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 RodeXit seal, you can solve the problem in the ways described in section 1.5.

## 2.3 Proofing the Side Gaps

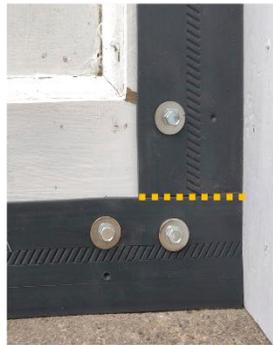
### 2.3.1 Installation of the RodeXit seal

When proofing the side gaps the RodeXit seal 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 leaf, it may be loosened and used as mounting strip:



Overlapping



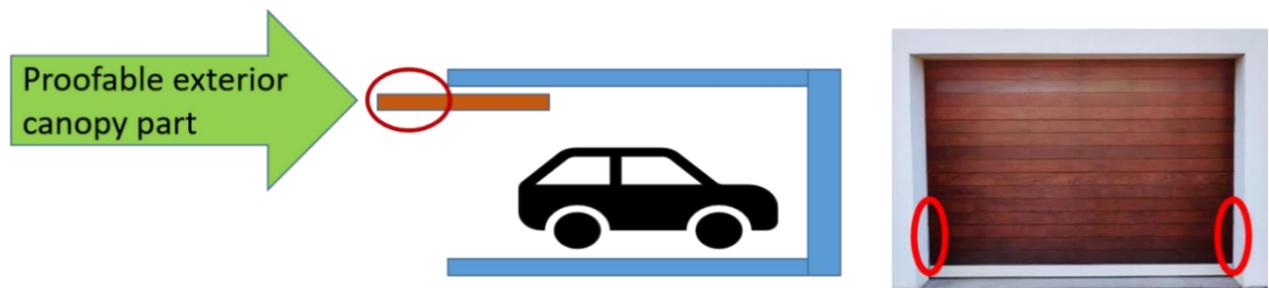
Adjoining

Adjoining with  
brush side sealAdjoining with  
polymer side seal

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

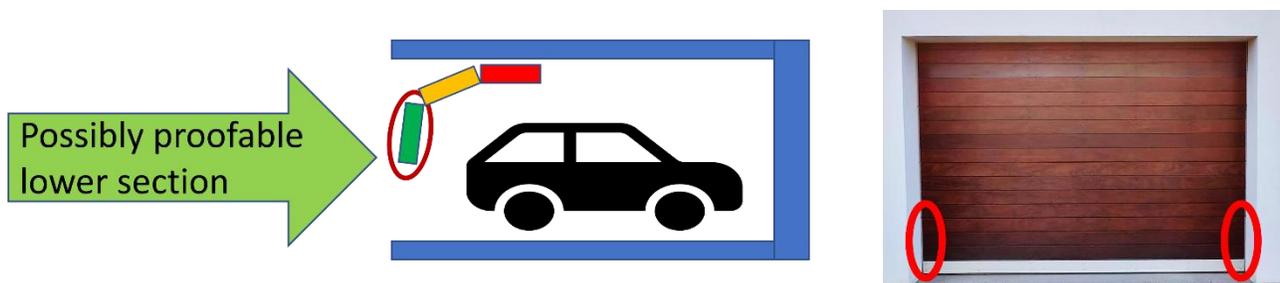
#### A. The Side Gaps of Canopy Doors

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 RodeXit seal without 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 impeding the opening and closing:



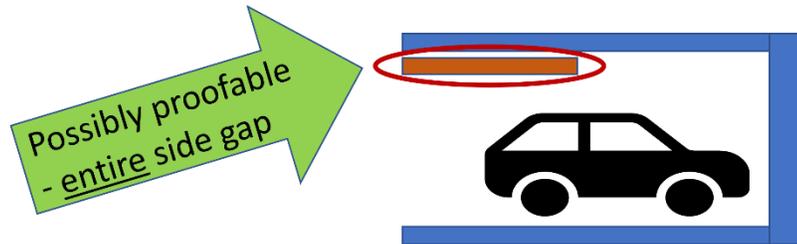
Do not install the horizontal and vertical seals overlapping. It could lead to friction problems.

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

### C. The Side Gaps of Retractable Doors

If RodeXit seals are installed on the lower part of the door leaf of a retractable door, there is a risk that the seals will collide with the side jambs during closing operations and compromise the closing, so do not try to rodent proof the side gaps in that way.

If the RodeXit seals are installed as side seals all the way from the top to the bottom of the retractable door panel, the above described collision problem should in most cases be eliminated. However, there is a risk, that rubbing against the side jambs will create excessive friction. Therefore, you should be aware of the friction risk if you rodent proof the side gaps in that way.



Alternatively you can try to install a set of high-quality brush side seals.



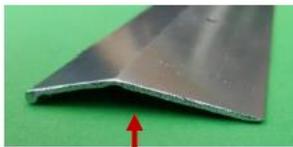
## 3 INSTALLATION WITH MOUNTING STRIPS

### 3.1 The Mounting Strips

A mounting strip is used when an aesthetically more pleasing installation is called for:



Numerous different strips can be used as mounting strips e.g. strips of matching wood and aluminum strips. RodeXit recommends aluminum carpet trims of the angled flat bar type because they can cover the upper edge of the seal:



Carpet trim of the angled flat bar type



Upper edge of an installed carpet trim of the angled flat bar type

RodeXit recommends the following carpet trims from MD Building Products and similar carpet trims:

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

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

- when the gap is more than 1.4 in (35 mm) and
- when a very high degree of protection is required
  - for example when the rodent pressure is very high.

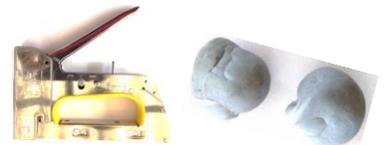
Double layer installation with a  
2 in (51 mm) wide carpet trim



### 3.2 Tools and Materials

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

- 1) A sufficiently long aluminum carpet trim with predrilled holes (hereinafter: “the mounting strip”).
- 2) A staple gun with suitable staples for temporarily attaching the seal to wood doors OR blobs of sticky power tack for temporarily attaching the seal to metal doors.
- 3) A couple of around 2 pounds (1 kg) heavy objects for holding the mounting strip in place during the installation.



### 3.3 Proofing the Threshold Gap

The RodeXit seal is installed by means of a proofing strip in the same way as by means of screws and washers except for the following:

- 1) The free end of the roll shall be temporarily attached to the left side of the door by means of a staple or sticky power tack instead of a screw before cutting off an oversized piece of seal.



- 2) Before trimming the right end of the oversized seal attach the seal temporarily by means of A) staples placed in the uppermost 1 in (2.5 cm) or B) blobs of sticky power tack - instead of mounting it by means of screws and washers:



- 3) With the tin snips trim the mounting strip:

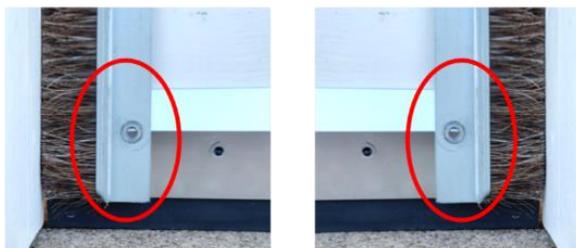
Door Leaf	Trimming
If the door leaf is wider than the door opening	Trim the mounting strip to the width of the door opening minus 1/2 in (1.2 cm).
Otherwise	Trim the mounting strip to the width of the door leaf.



- 4) If the door is equipped with side seals, tuck the ends of the trimmed mounting strip behind the side seals:

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

- loosen them,
- dismount them and remount them after installing the seal, or
- shorten the mounting strip by means of the tin snips.



Tucked behind brush side seals installed on the door



Tucked behind stop molding side seals installed on the side jambs

- 5) Use a couple of around 2 pounds (1 kg) heavy objects for holding the mounting strip in place.
- 6) Screw the mounting strip onto the door.



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

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



Use suitable screws – usually NOT the ones that come with the mounting strip if any as they tend to be of poor quality. It is no problem if the screws are slightly larger than the predrilled holes. The screws will automatically widen the holes in the aluminum strip when driven in.



Place a screw in each of the predrilled holes of the mounting strip (if necessary, after drilling pilot holes in the door):



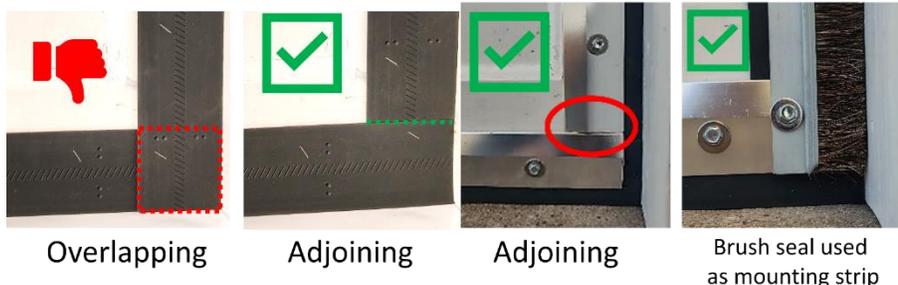
### 3.4 Proofing the Side Gaps

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 RodeXit seals, while it may be feasible to proof the side gaps of single panel retractable doors with RodeXit seals if you proof the entire side gaps.

The 2 RodeXit seals are installed vertically on the door leaf with mounting strips in much the same way as when installed by means of screws and washers.

The distance between the 2 vertical mounting strips and the 2 side jambs should be at least 1 in (2½ cm).

Let the horizontal and vertical seals adjoin in the 2 corners. Don't let them overlap. The best-looking way to join the vertical and horizontal mounting strips is to install the 2 vertical mounting strips so A) they adjoin the upper edge of the horizontal mounting strip, and B) they align with the ends of the horizontal mounting strip. That should ideally be taken into consideration already when the length of the horizontal mounting strip is trimmed. If there is a brush side seal on the door, it may be used as mounting strip instead of a carpet trim.



Overlapping

Adjoining

Adjoining

Brush seal used  
as mounting strip

## 4 MOUNTING BY MEANS OF DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE

Using double-sided tape may be relevant:

- If screw holes are undesirable – e.g. if the seal is to be mounted on a very fine wooden door.
- If it is impossible to secure the seal 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 RodeXit seal is mounted by means of double-sided tape in much the same way as when it is mounted by means of screws and washers – except for the use of the double-sided tape.

On [www.rodexit.com](http://www.rodexit.com) you can download a PDF mounting guide to the use of double-sided tape for installing RodeXit's All-In-One seal. Double-sided tape should not be used for installing RodeXit's WAVE seal.



## 5 TIPS AND TRICKS

### 5.1 The Instructional Video

On [www.rodexit.com](http://www.rodexit.com) you can watch an instructional video on how to proof vertically opening doors.



### 5.2 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.



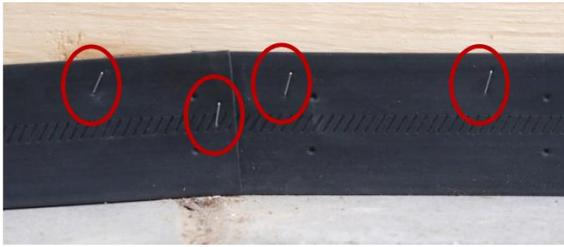
### 5.3 How to Handle Very Uneven or Rough Thresholds

If the door threshold is so uneven that there will be substantial gaps under the RodeXit seal, the threshold should be repaired before installing the seal.

Although it is not the optimal solution, you can as an alternative cut an All-In-One seal in several pieces and mount them overlapping and at an angle as illustrated here:



Two pieces installed by means of screws and washers overlapping and at an angle



Two pieces temporarily attached with staples overlapping and at an angle



Same finally installed with a carpet trim

Another way of dealing with uneven or rough thresholds is to supplement the RodeXit seal with a brush strip that conforms better to uneven surfaces.:



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



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

#### 5.4 Repair by Reuse

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



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



#### 5.5 Repair by Partial Replacement

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



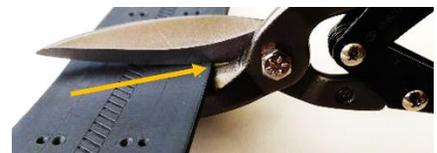
In order to maintain proper rodent resistance the new piece of seal must not be shorter than 2 feet (60 cm). Likewise no part of the remaining old seal may be shorter than 2 feet (60 cm).



#### 5.6 How to Use Tin Snips with Long Blades

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 seal / the aluminum mounting strip as far as possible in between the 2 blades of the tin snips before cutting.



If the blades are forced apart when you cut, it may be because you do not hold the seal / mounting strip 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.



### 5.7 Why Are Tin Snips with Long Blades Best?

Straight tin snips with long blades are better than straight tin snips with ordinary blades because

- it is a lot easier to make straight cuts with the long blades, and
- it is possible to cut the RodeXit seal in fewer clips.



### 5.8 A Very Useful Homemade Tool

If you on a regular basis use RodeXit seals, it is a good idea to make a simple and inexpensive “third hand” tool that is capable of

- holding a RodeXit seal 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.

### **5.9 Reduction of The Width of the Seal**

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

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

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

