

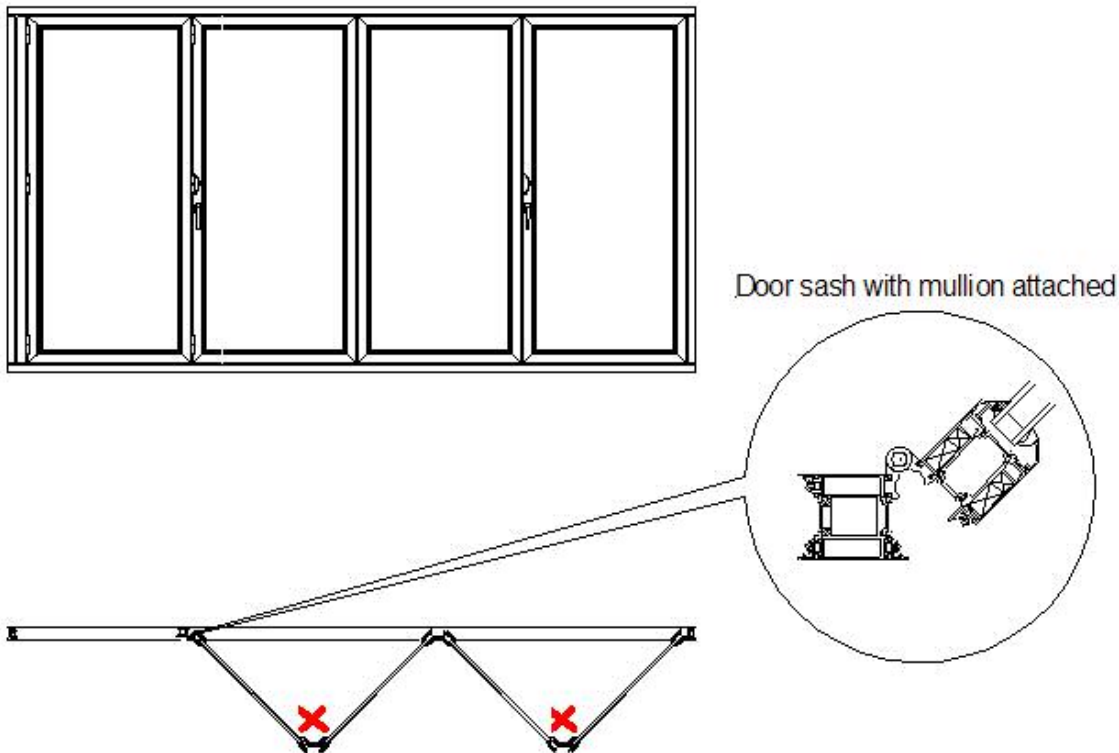
Even number folding sliding doors

Many people ask us for folding sliding doors where the number of doors folding to one or both sides is an even number. This is normally to achieve a look which is aesthetically pleasing, i.e. with all doors folding to one side or splitting in the middle with equal numbers of doors on each side.

Unfortunately, when the set of sliding folding doors includes an even number folding to one or both sides this causes some problems to arise which Origin Frames would like to make clear to all our customers.

Example 1

4 DOORS ALL SLIDING & FOLDING TO ONE SIDE



There are several different configurations that Origin Frames can manufacture:-

- 1) All 4 doors folding to one side with no keyed locking with only slave handles on inside to operate shootbolts in slave doors.

In this instance the doors cannot be fully closed behind you therefore leaving the room exposed to the weather if you go outside

The only way of closing doors is with assistance from someone to operate the slave lock from the inside, therefore locking you out.

- 2) All 4 doors folding to one side with no keyed locking with slave handles inside & outside allowing you to open the doors from either side (Please note that this would cause problems with security if used on an external opening)
- 3) All 4 doors folding to one side with keyed locking on one or both sides.

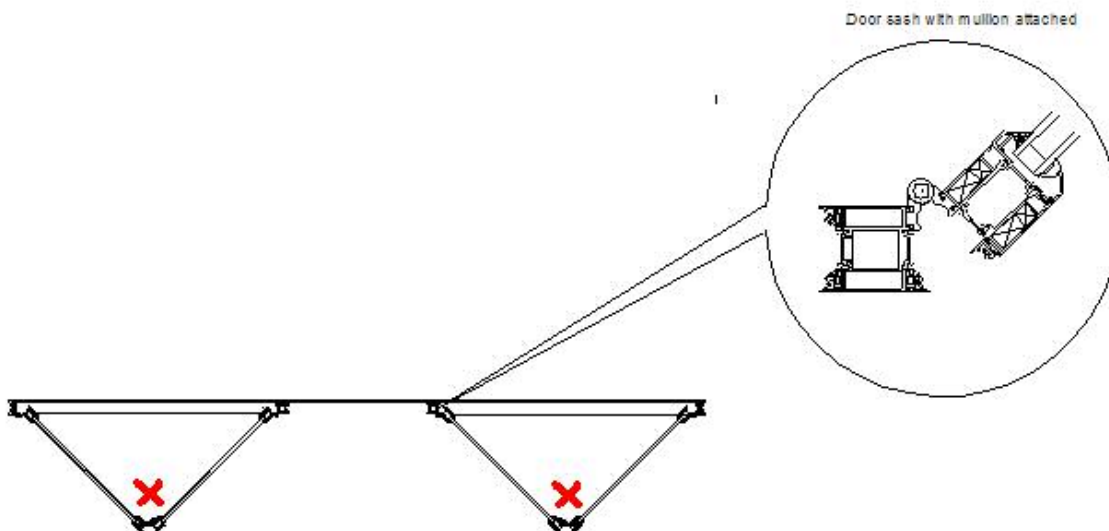
In this instance, should the person operating the door leave the key in the lock between the folded doors it will firstly bend or break the key and secondly damage the door profile, both of which are not covered by the guarantee given by Origin Frames Ltd. The areas where this would happen are indicated by the crosses in the diagram above.

Additional downsides to having the above set up are as follows:-

- 1) The minimum door leaf width is 700mm
- 2) The extra mullion (as shown in the exploded diagram) required to close the door against the jamb is unsightly & decreases the amount of glass
- 3) The above setup does not include a door that works independently of the others and therefore does not perform the functions of a door

Example 2

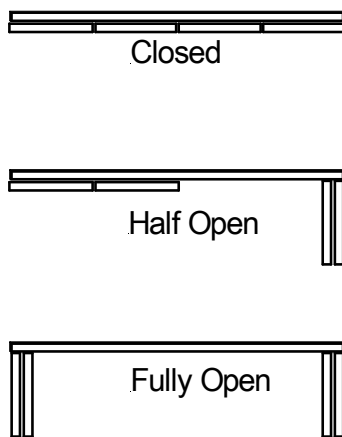
2 DOORS SLIDING IN EACH DIRECTION (NOT MANUFACTURED BY ORIGIN FRAMES LTD)



The same principle as described in example 1 is true when 2 doors fold and slide to each direction. Origin Frames will not manufacture the doors as shown in example 2 for many reasons as shown below:-

- 1) The mullions in the centre are unsightly and reduce the amount of glass considerably.
- 2) The 2 door leaves in the middle do not open as French doors, which is the vision of many people asking for this configuration.
- 3) When fully open there will be doors on both sides of the aperture so why not have a 3 + 1 set up (shown below) which is a far better option (reasons stated below in example 3)
- 4) The same problems with the locking are apparent here (crosses indicating damage if key is not removed before opening)

- 5) The options available to you in terms of opening variations are limited with this set up – see diagram below



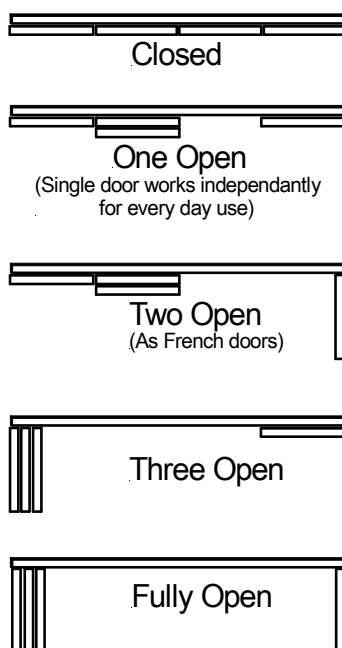
- 6) Again, minimum door leaf size is 700mm

As mentioned, we will not manufacture a 2 + 2 bi – folding door, not because it cannot be done but because Origin Frames do not want to supply a poorly designed configuration that does not perform the simple functions a door should.

A far better configuration of 4 doors would be where 3 slide and fold one way and a single opens in the opposite direction, as follows:

Example 3

4 DOORS WITH 3 FOLDING AND SLIDING ONE WAY & A SINGLE DOOR OPENING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION



By having the doors configured as 3 + 1 it gives many more options. Many people are worried about the doors not opening in the middle or folding to one side, however, the whole purpose of a bi – folding door is that it performs the functions of a door, which the 2 + 2 and 4 door all one way configurations do not. The 3 + 1 configuration still gives you 4 equal door leaves when closed, with no extra profile in the centre or at one end. When all doors are open it still leaves you with an open area, the same as the 2 + 2 or 4 + 0 configuration, but it also allows you to use one of the doors independently which makes it far more practical and user friendly.

The lead door in a 3 + 1 configuration can be either the single door on its own or the first of the three that fold to the opposite side.

Hopefully this information will help to explain the reasons why folding sliding doors work far better if manufactured using odd numbers of doors folding in one or both directions.

Should you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact our office on 0845 450 6662.