

Doors – Getting Them to Self-Close & Latch

According to Ann Arbor Fire Code doors need to self close and latch. Any door that does not do so of its own volition needs to be repaired. Hallway closet doors need to stay in their guides. Bathroom and shower doors do not need to close automatically.

Checklist

1. Ensure that hinges are secure and intact. If hinges are coming loose from door frame secure them. If hinge screws are missing replace them. If screws are coming loose try wider and longer screws or repairing the door frame. If major door frame repair is necessary contact the ICC Maintenance Staff. If hinges are bent or broken replace them.

2. Ensure that strike plate and door-latch are properly installed and secure so as not to obstruct door closure or latch. Reposition or secure as necessary. If latch does not work correctly contact the ICC Maintenance Staff.



3. Ensure that door fits frame properly. Sand door or frame if necessary.

4. Ensure that hinge springs and/or door closers have enough tension to close door. Tighten springs as necessary. Add an additional spring hinge or closer if necessary.

Some spring hinges (Figure 1) are tightened using two metal rods to rotate holes found along a groove in the side of the hinge. Other hinges (Figure 2) are tightened with a hex key placed in the top or bottom of the hinge.

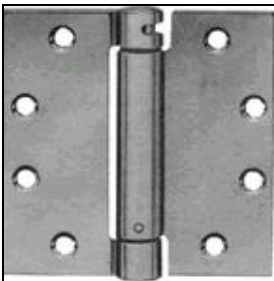


Figure 1



Figure 2

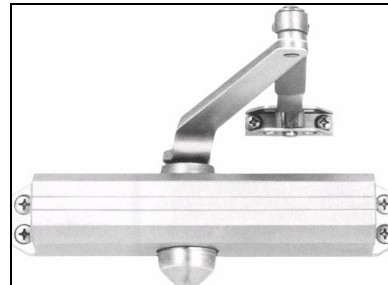


Figure 3

Door closers (Figure 3) normally have two spring mechanisms, one which controls the pulling force of the door and another which controls the resistance necessary to prevent the door from slamming.