

## PRESS RELEASE

### Slide Show

*02 October 2012, Johannesburg:* Adding a sliding door to either the interior or exterior of your home is a great home improvement project that can significantly enhance the spaces in your home from both an aesthetic and functional point of view. Charl Jacobz, from Swartland Wooden Windows and Doors, offers some insight into the beauty and practicality of the sliding door.

“With the recent hype about fold-a-side or concertina-style doors, the good old fashioned sliding door has taken a bit of a backseat of late. However, the truth is that sliding doors remain an exceptionally attractive and functional alternative for a variety of both internal and external residential applications throughout the home,” explains Charl.

### Different types of sliding doors

As its name implies, a sliding door is a type of door that opens horizontally by sliding on a track. Charl says that they come in a variety of configurations: “Sliding doors can replace a double door, or they can run along the entire length of a wall. They come in various formats, including full pane single sliders, where one door slides open onto the other; or full pane double sliders, which is a four-panel configuration where the two middle doors slide open on the two panels on either side.”

He says that Swartland’s range of sliding doors can either be made to order to fit a particular space, or you can choose from a variety of different standard sizes.

### The benefits of sliding doors

There are many benefits to installing sliding doors in your home – Charl lists some of them:

- **Space-saving:** “Since sliding doors slide open, they do not require any space to open. This means that unlike hinged doors, where an arc of space is needed to be left empty in order to cater for the swinging door, the space surrounding sliding doors can be used for various applications,” Charl explains.
- **Bringing the outdoors in:** Since the majority of any sliding door is made from glass, they go a long way to improving the visual flow between a home’s indoor and outdoor spaces. “Not only do they offer a great view to the outdoors, but they also let in a lot of natural light – making the room appear brighter, larger and more vibrant,” explains Charl.
- **Eco-friendly and energy-efficient:** Swartland’s custom or standard wooden sliding doors can be exceptionally energy efficient, says Charl: “There are various reasons that make wooden sliding doors an eco-friendly choice for your home, including the fact that wood is a renewable resource, it sequesters carbon, it looks great, it lasts for an exceptionally long time if properly maintained, and it boasts excellent

insulating qualities.” He says that Swartland’s sliding doors are all fitted with composite gaskets for increased thermal insulation that effectively acts as a weather and sound barrier – keeping out dust, drafts and the rain. Swartland also offers selected wooden sliding doors that are double-glazed for optimum insulation: “Swartland’s range of double glazed doors and windows boast with some of the lowest U-ratings in South Africa, which means that they offer increased thermal insulation for any home in which they are installed.”

- **Easy operation:** If well constructed and of a high standard, sliding doors, such as those offered by Swartland, should boast fingertip operation. Says Charl: “Swartland’s range of sliding doors are so easy to slide open and to close, even children can operate them with ease.” He says that engineered stiles provide extra stability and the German-manufactured Siegenia Lift Up Locking Gear make these doors a stunning and functional bridge between your indoor sanctuary and the great outdoors.
- **Great aesthetics and versatility:** Including sliding doors into the architecture of your home will enhance the indoor spaces by ensuring fantastic views of the outdoor areas beyond, and by letting in an abundance of natural light. However, Charl explains that aside from these practicalities, Swartland’s sliding doors also look great as a feature in their own right: “Made from timber, the natural grain, rich colour and inviting texture of the wood that Swartland’s sliding doors are manufactured from gives them a truly inviting visual appeal. Boasting simple design lines, which comprise either a cottage pane-type style or an open full pane – design-wise, these doors are very versatile in that they can complement virtually any architectural and décor style, from the very contemporary, to the more traditional styles.”

### **The various applications for sliding doors**

Says Charl: “Sliding doors can be used for both internal and external applications. Most famed for use as a means of opening up the interiors of a home to the outdoors – such as offering a means of access to an outdoor patio, or opening a kitchen up onto an outdoor herb garden for example – the truth is, that sliding doors can be used for a whole host of other applications.” He lists some of them as follows:

- **Internal doors:** For areas where space is at a premium, sliding doors that slide into hollow walls, also known as cavity sliders, are a great solution. This way, homeowners can benefit from the space-saving sliding function of the doors. “Sliding doors with opaque glazing also make a great option for dark, badly lit rooms – the glazing in the double panes of the sliding doors will let a lot of light into a room,” explains Charl. Sliding doors also make great room dividers, as they can divide a room up when a smaller space is required, and then open it up into a free-flowing larger room when required.
- **Balconettes:** A balconette is a perfect space-saving alternative to the standard balcony, says Charl: “Essentially, a balconette comprises sliding doors that have been installed in a room that is on a second floor or higher. A waist-high balustrade runs along the length of the opening of

the sliding door for safety. Balconettes offer elevated rooms wide access to the great outdoors, without the need for a traditional built-in balcony.”

### **How to choose a quality sliding door?**

Charl says that like most things, not all sliding doors are created equal. He offers the following pointers to look for when investing in a sliding door:

- **Good quality:** All Swartland’s wooden sliding doors for example, are made from solid wood that has been specially kiln-dried in the company’s own kilns to ensure that it boasts an 8% moisture content, which is the most suitable for the South African climate.
- **Door hardware and tracks:** See if the doors slide open and close, and that they lock easily. The sliding motion should glide freely along the tracks and be easy to operate. Swartland uses German Siegenia door hardware for all the Cape Culture sliding doors, for optimum functionality and durability.
- **Guarantees:** With regards to Swartland’s sliding doors, the length of the guarantee is determined by the hardware and section sizes of the various sliding doors. The company is so confident in the craftsmanship, quality and durability of its products that it offers a 10-year guarantee on its Cape Culture range, and a 5-year guarantee on its Winsters range.
- **Safety considerations:** For optimum safety, it is imperative that the glazing used in any sliding door is of a high standard. Swartland uses 6.38 Safety Glass on all glazing for their Ready-2-Fit sliding doors, which come pre-glazed and pre-sealed.
- **Treated wood:** Wooden sliding doors that are pre-sealed ensure that the wood is not damaged from any exposure to the elements before or while they are being installed. Swartland’s Ready-2-Fit range comes pre-glazed and pre-sealed with its Maxicare water-based sealant. A major advantage of being pre-sealed with water-based Maxicare sealant is that it facilitates exceptionally easy maintenance of the sliding doors going forward. This is made possible by using Maxicare’s specially formulated Wash n’ Wipe Maintenance Kit.
- **Energy efficiency:** Good quality sliding doors should be energy efficient and offer good thermal insulation. All Swartland’s sliding doors come with a built-in seals or composite gaskets to ensure that they offer optimum insulation. Double-glazed options are also available in selected sizes in the full glass range.

ENDS

Released on behalf of Swartland ([www.swartland.co.za](http://www.swartland.co.za)) by The Line Communications ([www.theline.co.za](http://www.theline.co.za), [ant@theline.co.za](mailto:ant@theline.co.za)).