

Ask Jon Eakes

Replacing a rotting door sill.

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Jack wants to know just how a door frame is made, so that he can take his apart. The sill is rotten.

Usually, but not always, the sill goes right under the vertical framing. Sometimes the vertical piece is notched into the sill. In either case, you have to either cut out all the rotten wood, or treat any part that has active fungus. The good news is that it is actually possible now, with special epoxies, to rebuild the whole rotten area without removing much of anything.

Both Minwax and BCS make products that you use first to solidify the rotten wood and kill off the fungus, and then an epoxy putty that fills in any missing wood. This is often used for door and window sills, as well as for rebuilding the bottom of wooden columns and porch rails. Follow this link for more details on the BCS product.

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