



# Rough Opening Clearance Recommendations

## STEADY SET®

Accurately sizing the rough opening and ordering window and doors the correct size to fit within framed rough openings is a critical step to ensuring a window or door can be correctly installed to avoid product performance and operational issues. Clearance between the window or door frame and the rough opening is necessary to allow for construction tolerances and thermal movement while also allowing adequate room for installation flashing materials, shims, installation accessories, and interior installation seals for air and water management. Conversely, excessive installation clearances could result in decreased structural performance or challenges related to integration with the wall system's weather resistive barrier resulting in increased air or water infiltration.

The rough opening clearance recommendations below are based on typical installation conditions, and may not be sufficient to accommodate the buildup of all construction and installation flashing materials, or out of plumb, level, or square rough opening framing, which can dramatically reduce window to rough opening clearances on wide or tall openings.

Rough opening clearances are also necessary to accommodate some level of structural header deflection, specifically for wide openings. Door opening sills often include sill pan materials that reduce rough opening clearance as well. Other window and door components available from Pella also require clearance in the installation cavity, such as Steady Set Interior Installation System components, combination truss plates, mullion end anchors, and installation clips.

Replacement projects, particularly when the exterior wall covering or window or door trim is unable to be removed, typically require a reduction in size of the new window or door to properly allow for flashing and preparation of the opening and installation clearance. Review the applicable installation instructions prior to ordering Pella products.

Review your project regarding the rough opening size and quoted window or door frame sizes prior to ordering your Pella products, or consult your Pella sales representative for additional details or questions.

### Single and Combination Window Openings Rough Opening Clearance Recommendations

	Single Opening	Combinations
Aluminum-Clad Wood	3/8" (3/4" total)	1/2" to 5/8" (1" to 1-1/4" total)
Pella® Impervia® Fiberglass	1/4" (1/2" total) minimum	1/2" (1" total)
Pella® Vinyl	1/4" (1/2" total) minimum	3/8" (3/4" total)

Door rough opening (except multi-panel doors) should be sized as shown above for width and 1/2" to 1" greater than frame in height. Door sill clearance is 0", not accounting for rough opening sill flashing, pan, or sealant thickness.

\*Products installed in windborne debris regions may require reduced installation clearance. Consult your local building code official, project structural engineer, or Pella sales representative.

