

Evaluating Hurricane Shutters – The Basics

Evaluating hurricane shutters will ensure that you get the most secure accordion shutters and the best quality installation. Accordion shutters are permanently installed over a window or door opening, and you can slide them to close. The evaluation methods can vary by local building departments as they have different requirements for the shutters that are sold and installed in their jurisdiction.

Instructions

- **1** Look for the product approval label on the shutters. The product approval label is usually a silver-colored sticker that has a product approval number. If there is no product approval label, then the product has not been tested by the county and will not be legal to install. Also, make sure the product approval label bears the same name of the company that is installing your shutters.
- **2** Test the shutter with a level. Put the level on top of the shutter and see if it's straight.
- **3** Close the shutter and evaluate if it closes correctly. Do you need to use too much force to close it? This could be a sign that the shutters were not installed correctly.
- **4** Test the lock on the shutters. Use the key to close the shutters. Try to open the shutters, and see if the lock holds the shutters closed. If the shutter opens, it's most likely improperly installed.
- **5** Call the local building department and ask them how many screws are required per square feet of shutter. Count the screws and see if the installers missed any. Some companies purposely miss screws to save on labor and materials

Tips & Warnings

- Depending on your location, you should not install accordion shutters unless you are a licensed contractor, or the shutters may not pass inspection. You may also not be able to get a homeowner's insurance discount if you install them yourself.