

# Operating Instructions

## Bi-fold Doors

### Important Instructions Note

- Bifold doors are a brilliant way to open up a living space.
- Having an access panel to facilitate easy access through the bifold doorset, with ready access from both inside and out is highly desirable.
- Having all of the panels stack to one end is also highly desirable to minimise space intrusion.
- And you can have all of these things in the one door opening. 3 panels one way; or 5 panels, or even 7 panels (although GJames does not offer this option) Brilliant again.

But... To avoid disappointment, there is something about 3, 5, or 7 panels one way that you need to know.

There is a risk of your door sill or the floor being damaged if someone operates the panels in the wrong sequence. The evidence of this is gouged into many floors in Australia and around the world. Bifold doors from all manufacturers and in all materials suffer the same fate if operated inadvertently.

1. When opening the doorset, always ensure that the free swinging access panel (the one with the regular hinged door handle on it) is latched to the adjacent pair of panels BEFORE opening the folding pairs of doors
2. When closing the doorset, always leave the free swinging access panel attached to the adjacent pair until they are locked in the closed position

**The cause of the problem is basic physics. That free swinging panel is hanging on the end of at least 2 other door panels. Those two (or more) panels are very rigid in the plane of the glass, but, because they are basically flat and thin, they are subject to distortion if a twisting force is applied to one end of the panel.**

**That free swinging access panel is attached to the next panel by hinges and it always applies a twisting load (or torque) through the hinges that it hangs from; the direction of that twisting load changes as the panel swings through the opening/closing arc.**

**When the bifold panels are closed, this is no problem because the forces involved are resisted by the top (head) and bottom (sill) of the door frame. When the bifold panels are open, however, they are easily distorted by that twisting load, and the result of that distortion is that the end of that swinging panel drops downward towards your lovely tiled floor.**

