

4-Pocket Sidewall Construction Options

Tektrim has field-tested pocket wall construction options for many years. The materials and systems that we recommend are based on this experience. First and foremost: There are very real limitations on wall thickness vs. height that results in some pocket walls being too flexible (read: flimsy). The “classic” pocket door circa 1960’s was an 1 3/8” hollow-core door in a 3 1/2” thick wall. If you do the math, you see that the sidewall framing thickness is 3/4” + 1/4” space. As many of you know, if you push lightly on the pocket wall of this system, the wall deflects and rubs the door—even scratching it’s finish! None of our customers would accept that - would your clients? We don’t think so...

Tektrim offers materials and systems that feel solid and work flawlessly for years. We offer several pocket wall systems that solve the problems mentioned above.

For 1 3/4” doors we recommend a minimum 4 1/2” framed wall thickness. This allows one full inch for the pocket wall framing members (a 1” square steel tubing is a great choice). This works great for up to 7 foot doors. If your doors are taller than 7 feet, we recommend 1-1/2” tubes and a 5 1/2” framed wall thickness. In both cases, if walls are constructed in this fashion, you will not have pocket wall deflection and the installation will have an ambience of quality and solidity.

Some jobs require extreme measures to solve a unique challenges. There are other pocket wall systems that can perform equally to the systems mentioned and yet are thinner in cross section. These may use structural aircraft honeycomb panels that are very strong and are very stiff relative to other options. Contact us if this is your only option...

Figure 7

Pocket Side Wall Thickness and Other Important Dimensions to Know and Understand

