



Safehinge ALU30

Door Safety for Education, Healthcare & Retail

Product Data Sheet

Introduction

Finger Trapping – The Problem

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) estimates that 30,000 children trap and seriously injure their fingers in doors every year and more than 1,500 of these will need surgery. The estimated cost of these injuries to the National Health Service is £200 million per annum.

Further research carried out at the Royal Sick Children's Hospital in Glasgow highlighted the severity of the injuries which occur. In six months, 136 children were admitted to A&E after trapping their fingers in a door with 45% suffering bone/joint injuries and 11% amputation. The cost of litigation for these injuries can be substantial. The responsibility for reducing these injuries falls to those who have children in their buildings.



Damaged Hinge Guards

Until now hinges have been shielded by unsightly plastic hinge guards. These products have limited durability in high traffic areas and are prone to vandalism in schools and hospitals. Once damaged or split these 'protectors' can, in fact, create problems because of sharp edges (as shown) and trapped dirt.

All Age Groups are at Risk

Contrary to common perception, finger trappings happen to all age groups. A study of children only, aged 0-14 years, shows a spread of incidents occurring across children age groups from primary to secondary.

0 - 4 years	43%
5 - 10 years	35%
10 - 14 years	22%

"Isolated finger injuries in children – incidence and aetiology", NV Doraiswamy (March 2000)
Department of Acc & Emergency Medicine, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow

People with special needs, the elderly and people with sensory impairments are often more susceptible to finger trappings, but reports of fully-abled adults having fingers injured by doors highlight the fact these accidents can happen to anyone.

Which Doors to Protect

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) recommends considering the risk of finger injuries on doors that will not be held open during peak periods of pedestrian movement. Doors to spaces where young children may be present - such as classrooms, wards, corridors and receptions - also represent a high risk of injury. Specify finger protection in high risk areas to eliminate injury.

Life Cost Comparison

Life cost analysis highlights the true cost of plastic hinge guards. Local authorities and building owners report they are replacing hinge guards every 6 – 24 months in schools and hospitals, depending on when they break.

Based on a 24-month replacement cycle, typical costs of £30 for a hinge guard and £20 labour for installation accumulate to a significant sum (£625) over the 25-year life of a building.

The life cost of the Safehinge ALU30 is up to 75% less than hinge guards. The Safehinge ALU30 also eliminates the hassle of sub-contractors on-site prior to completion and again repeatedly during operation of the building to retrofit or replace hinge guards.

Product Summary - Safehinge ALU30

The Solution

The Safehinge ALU30 is an integrated safety hinge which prevents finger trapping through clever design. The hinge pivots the door at the top and bottom, which maintains a small, constant gap at the hinge side of the door thus minimising the chance of fingers being jammed. Since the Safehinge ALU30 is designed to be integrated by the door manufacturer, it is as strong and durable as the door itself, eliminating any worries about maintenance and lifetime cost compared to other anti-trap products.

Test Methodology

The Safehinge ALU30 has been rigorously tested as part of an integrated doorset - as opposed to individual components - in fire, mechanical and acoustic disciplines. Integrated testing is more onerous because it tests the product as part of an overall assembly (replicating the real-life situation more closely), rather than artificially isolating components. Successful outcomes from such testing provide the specifier with total confidence that the product is fit for purpose.

Summary

Single/double swing doorset incorporating anti-finger trap pivot set and aluminium edge profile.

Door blanks

Halspan (44mm), Blankfort 30

Fire/smoke

FD30, FD30 (S) rating

Mechanical

Severe Duty rating

Acoustic

R_w rating up to 32dB

Standard finish

Aluminium edge profile - natural anodised finish.

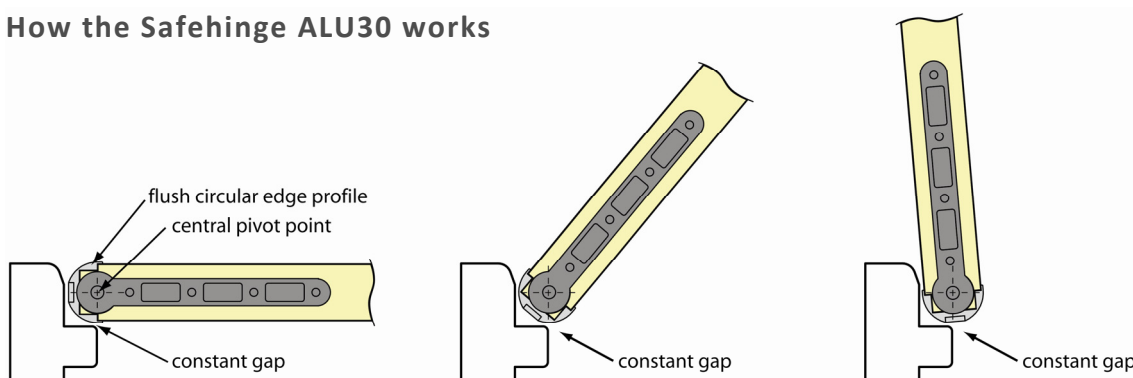
Suitable for use with veneer, laminate, paint-grade and other door finishes.

Standard lengths

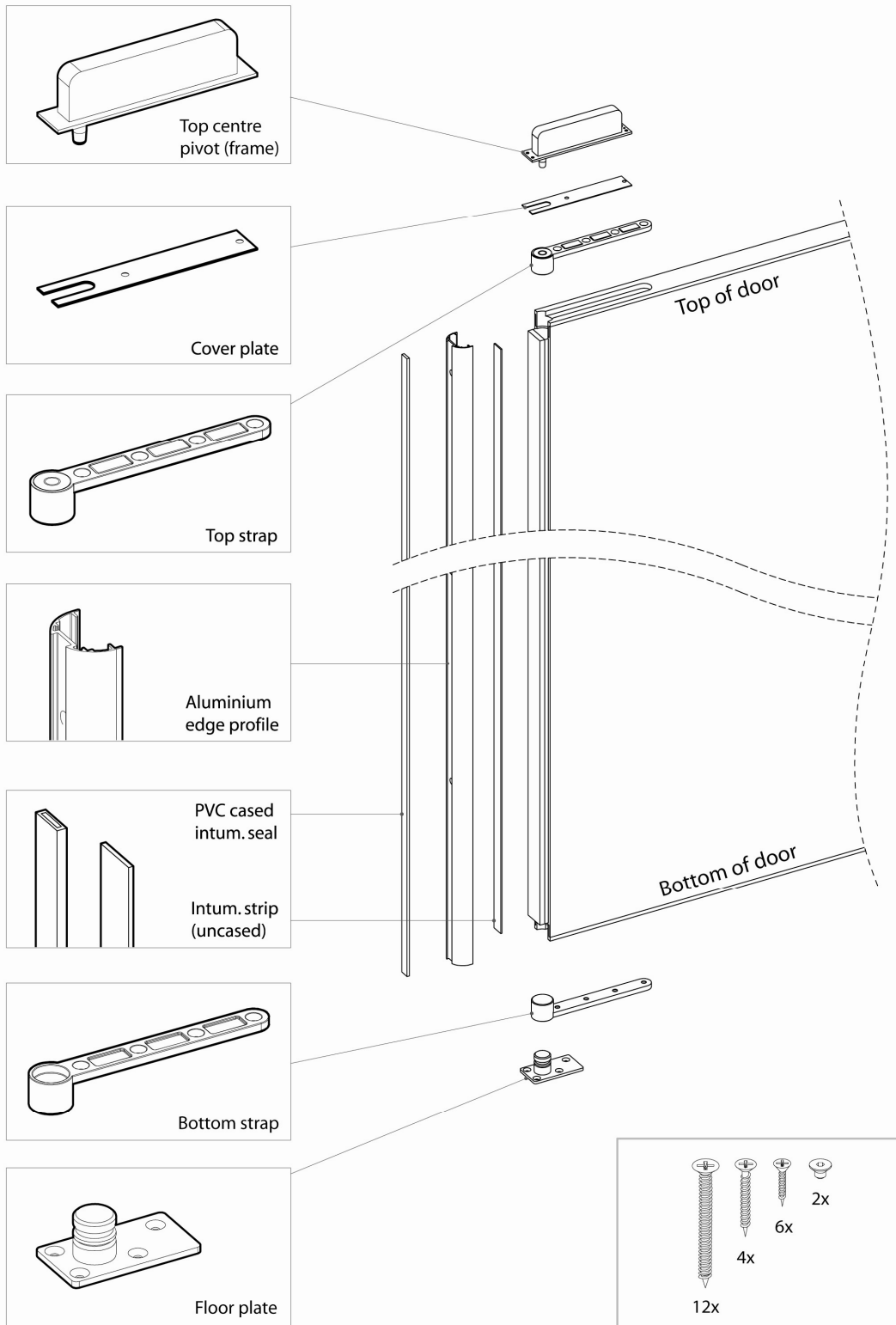
2.1m standard supply length (longer lengths available upon request)



How the Safehinge ALU30 works



Safehinge ALU30 Components





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