

# Doors, only doors

**We manufacture doors – only doors. For the front of a house, for the back of a house or for an extension, said Haydon Statham, the sales director for Universal Composite Doors when he spoke to *The Fabricator* special correspondent Ed Humpreys**

Universal Composite Doors – or UCD for short – has become a major player in the replacement composite door market with customers in both the new build sector and the refurbishment market. The company has a reputation for delivering quality products that are fully certified for security and thermal efficiency.

UCD has a consumer facing website and a state-of-the-art online door designer. As a result it attracts a lot of leads which are then passed on to companies local to where the enquiry has been made.

## UCD collection

When it comes to front doors (and most of what UCD manufacturers will go on the front of a property), the company breaks its portfolio down into traditional doors, contemporary doors, twin doors – and doors with a hinged side panel.

It also now offers stable doors. Its main target here is homeowners who want a new back door or want to suite their new front door with a back door.

“And it is not unreasonable to expect to find buyers who want a stable door on the front of their homes,” says Statham. There are still villages in the UK where homes have traditionally had a stable door to the front and of course, if a customer has a beautiful front garden and loves a bit of fresh air, a stable door could work for them.

“I do of course feel the biggest market will be for back doors – or doors onto a side extension, annex or utility room. We know there is a lot of demand to ‘let the outside in’ which has driven the sale of garden doors and bi-folds. Stable doors are great for customers who haven’t got that expanse at the back of their homes (or planners don’t like the suggestion of such a modification) yet still want light and fresh air to come into a kitchen for example.”

UCD offers both inward and outward opening stable doors. There are two basic styles – Farmhouse (traditional) and Flush Fit (contemporary).

“Like all UCD doors all stable doors are available on a ten-day lead time,” says Statham.

## Build

UCD offers two versions of the stable door. Foam based doors feature a high-density polyurethane core and ultra thick GRP skins. Timber core doors feature a three-layered inner core of cross-laminated engineered hardwood. Both variants offer U-values that meet current and are likely to meet future building regulations. Both variants also offer excellent acoustic properties.

The door finish is sprayed not foiled. This provides almost endless choice and a more desirable and durable finish.

## Security

Statham says: “Our reputation is built on the security

offered by our doors. However there isn’t a PAS standard available for stable doors. Nonetheless we have gone to huge lengths to make sure the stable doors perform well from a security point of view and our entire range is covered by Secured by Design.”

A new interlocking mechanism means the top and bottom leaves of the door are connected internally. Statham says: “This makes our doors neater to look at as there is no need for an external bolt to hold the two leaves together.”

## Yale

UCD is fitting the composite Lockmaster 21 stable door lock from Yale a combination of Yale’s Lockmaster 21 and Lockmaster KeyTurn multipoint door locks. Its security credentials are aided by the signature Lockmaster hook and anti-lift pin on both the top and bottom leaf and it features an easy-to-use push-in snib mechanism to prevent accidental lock-outs.

Dean Human, the technical manager at UCD says: “It is a great lock. Its built-in shootbolts provide powerful reinforcement, making the doors much harder to force open, while its radius allows it to engage seamlessly with the door frame, maximising security. It’s the best stable door lock we have ever seen.”

Statham says: “We only make residential composite doors and we partner with top brands like Yale. We claim to be ‘the best’ at what we do and that includes our stable door and all of our customer service offering.” □

