Creating a Screen Porch in Home Designer

Reference Number: **KB-00748**
Last Modified: **August 22, 2025**

This article also applies to the following legacy products:
Pro | Architectural | Suite

QUESTION

I would like to add a screened-in porch to my plan. How can I do this?

ANSWER

Screened panels can be created by applying a mesh material to the glass component in a window and then using copies of this window to form a porch.

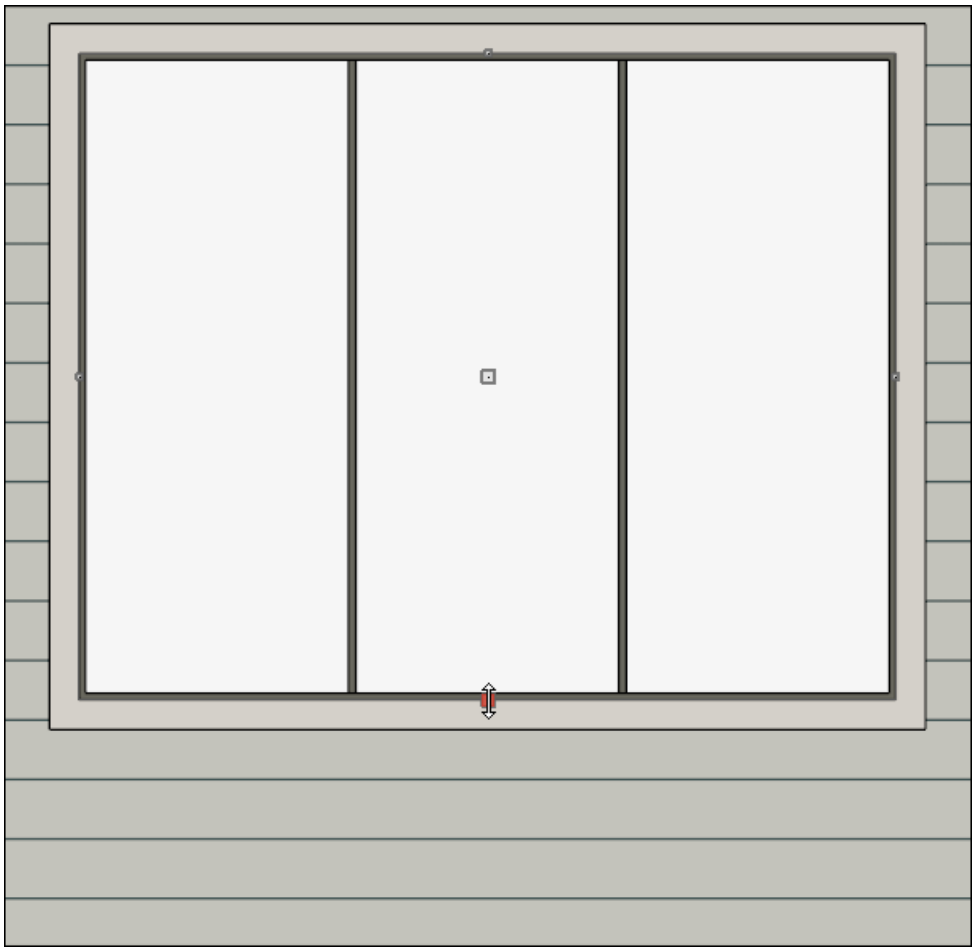
To create a screen porch

1. Select **Build> Window> Window** and place a window into one of the walls of your porch.

2. Navigate to **3D> Create Orthographic View> Cross Section/Elevation** and create a cross section/elevation view of the screen porch wall.

   In legacy Home Designer versions, navigate to **3D> Create Camera View> Cross Section/Elevation** instead.

3. In the newly generated view, select your window and using the edit handles:
   - Adjust the top height of the window to match the top of your wall.
   - Adjust the bottom height of the window to the height where you want the bottom of your screen to start.



4. Using the **Select Objects** tool, select the window and click the **Open Object** edit button.

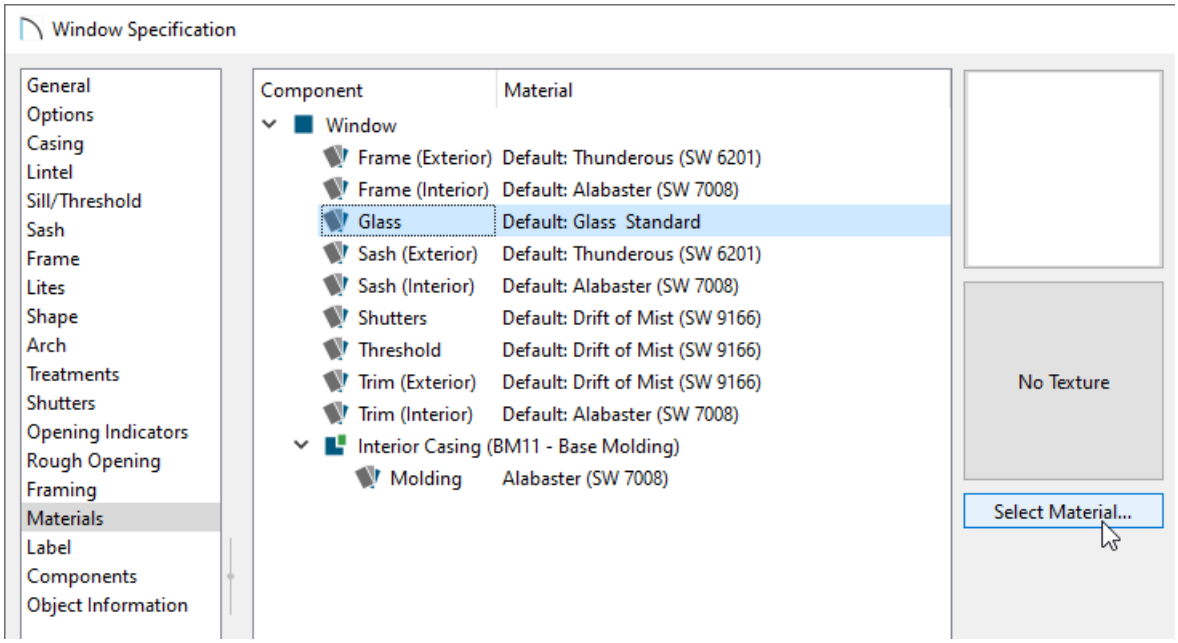
5. On the GENERAL panel of the **Window Specification** dialog that opens, change the Window Type to **Fixed Glass**.

6. Access the CASING, LINTEL*, SILL/THRESHOLD*, SASH, FRAME*, and LITES panels to adjust these various components associated with the window.

   **Available in Home Designer Pro and Home Designer 2026 and newer. A limited selection of sill and threshold*

settings are located on the CASING panel in legacy versions.

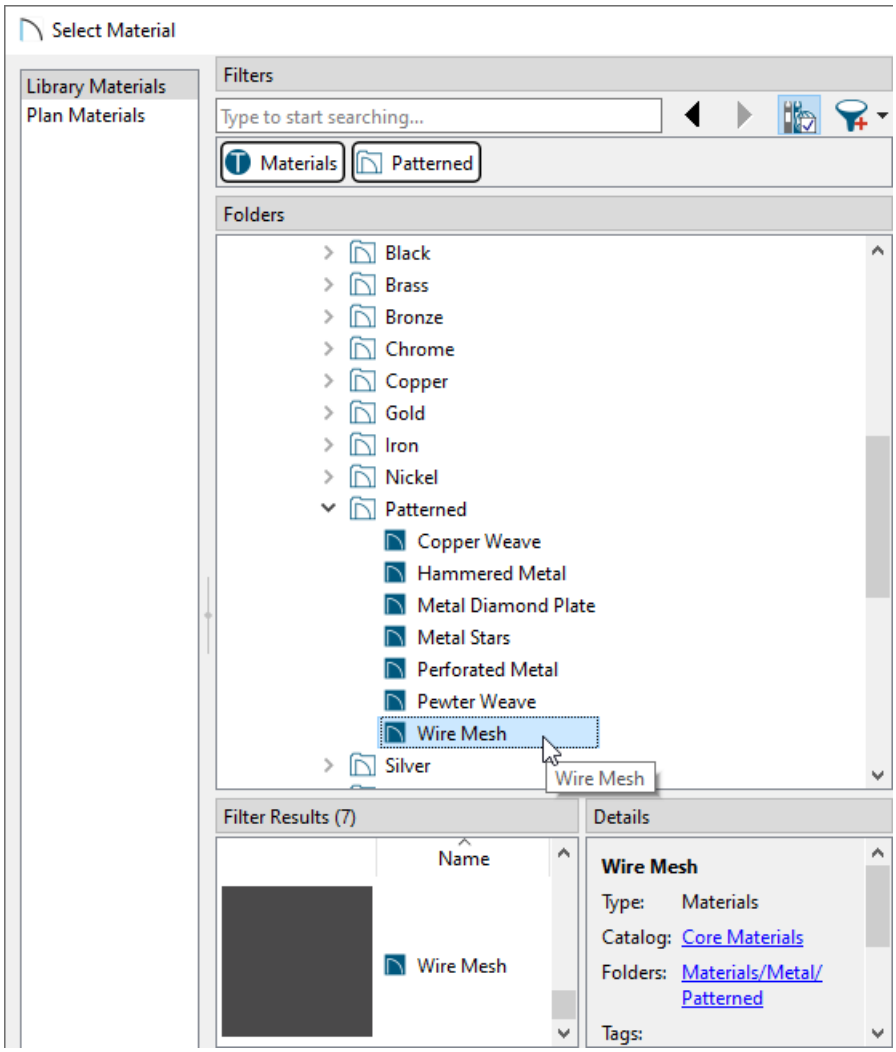
7. Select the MATERIALS panel, select the **Glass** component, then click on the **Select Material** button.



8. In the **Select Material** dialog that opens, navigate to **Core Catalogs> Materials> Metal> Patterned> Wire Mesh**, select it, then click **OK**.

   In Home Designer 2025 and prior versions, navigate to **Home Designer Core Catalogs> Materials> Fabric & Wall Coverings> Sheers & Shades> Screen> Screen** instead.

> Additional mesh materials, such as Square Mesh, can be located in the Materials Wire and Lattice (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/3d-library/index.php?r=site/detail/961) bonus catalog. For more information on obtaining additional catalogs, please see the Related Articles section below.



9. Make any other adjustments to the window, then click **OK** once more to close the dialog.

You can now create as many copies of this window as needed using the various edit tools.

> Additional catalogs can be found in the 3D Library (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/3d-library/index.php?r=site/library&reset=true) for furnishing your porch room. For more information on obtaining bonus library content ,please see the Related Articles section.

Related Articles

- Creating a Mulled Window (/support/article/KB-00759/creating-a-mulled-window.html)
- Downloading and Updating Library Catalogs (/support/article/KB-00048/downloading-and-updating-library-catalogs.html)
- Editing the Shape of a Window (/support/article/KB-01024/editing-the-shape-of-a-window.html)

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