

If you are staring at a torn lanai panel, loose spline, or a screen cage that has started looking tired after a few Florida storm seasons, the short answer is this: **ACE Hardware usually does not handle full lanai rescreening as a standard in-store service.** Some ACE locations may repair or rescreen small window or door screens, and a few locally owned stores might know a handyman or screen contractor they trust, but a full lanai rescreening job is generally something you hire a dedicated screen repair company to do.

That distinction matters more than people expect. A small screen repair at a hardware counter is one thing. A lanai in Florida is often an aluminum-framed enclosure with large panels, code considerations, weather exposure, and material choices that affect how long the repair lasts. I have seen homeowners assume a broken lanai panel is the same as replacing a window screen, then get halfway into the project and realize they are dealing with twenty-foot spans, brittle spline, ladders, fasteners that have fused in the humidity, and screen mesh that needs the right tension to survive the next summer thunderstorm.

So if your question is, “Does ACE hardware do rescreening?” the practical answer is: **sometimes for small household screens, rarely for full lanais, and it always depends on the individual store.** For a Florida lanai, expect to call a local screen company rather than the hardware store service desk.

Why the answer is not a simple yes or no

ACE stores are independently owned. That is the first thing to understand. One store may have a strong screen and glass department that can repair a patio door screen or rescreen a window frame you carry in. Another may sell all the materials but offer no repair service at all. Because of that, there is no reliable blanket policy you can count on for lanai rescreening.

A Florida lanai is also a very specific kind of job. It often involves one or more of these realities: oversized screen sections, roofline attachments, second-story height, pressure from wind loads, pet damage, rusted fasteners, and old framing that may need more than fresh mesh. That is why the companies that do this work every day travel with rolls of screen, multiple spline sizes, ladders, clips, fasteners, and the judgment that comes from doing hundreds of enclosures.

If your screen need is small, such as one rectangular frame from a screen door or a window insert, your neighborhood ACE may be worth a call. If your lanai has several torn panels, sagging mesh, or damage from a fallen branch, you are in contractor territory.

What ACE Hardware may help with

Even when ACE does not do the labor, it can still be useful. A good store can often set you up with the right materials if you are thinking about do it yourself rescreening. They may carry fiberglass screen, spline, spline rollers, utility knives, clips, screen repair tape, and patch kits. Some stores also cut replacement parts or help match sizes.

That said, selling materials and performing the full job are very different things. A clerk can hand you a roll of 20x20 screen, but they cannot tell from the counter whether your lanai frame is slightly twisted, whether the old spline groove is damaged, or whether the previous installer overstretched the corners and weakened the frame. Those details are what separate a neat repair from a panel that pops out the first windy afternoon.

What full lanai rescreening in Florida usually involves

Lanai rescreening is one of those jobs that sounds straightforward until you actually start. On paper, you remove old spline, pull out the damaged mesh, clean the groove, roll in new material, trim the edges, and move on. In real life, the old spline can snap into crumbs, the aluminum can flex, and the replacement mesh can pucker if the angle is off by even a little.

Florida adds another layer. Heat, UV exposure, salt air near the coast, heavy rain, and hurricane season all shorten the life of screening. Homeowners ask all the time, "How long do lanai screens last in Florida?" A fair answer is that **many screens last around 5 to 10 years**, sometimes longer in mild conditions and sometimes much less if the enclosure faces harsh sun, salt, frequent wind, tree rubbing, or pet damage. A shaded inland lanai with good-quality mesh may age gracefully. A coastal cage that takes beating sun and storm debris can look worn in a few years.

This is why professional screen companies often recommend replacing multiple panels at once when the enclosure has reached a certain age. If one panel tore because it was hit by a branch, that is one thing. If several sections feel brittle, faded, and loose, patching just one opening can turn into a cycle of repeated repairs.

Does ACE hardware do rescreening, or should you call a specialist?

If the job fits in your car, you may have options. If the job surrounds your patio, pool, or lanai, call a specialist first.

Here is the most practical way to think about it:

- For a single small screen frame, ask ACE if that specific store offers rescreening.
- For a torn lanai panel you can safely reach and remove, ACE may sell the materials, but labor is unlikely.
- For a full lanai rescreening, most homeowners in Florida hire a screen enclosure contractor.
- For storm damage, multiple torn panels, or second-story work, skip the store counter and get an on-site estimate.
- If you are unsure, call ACE and ask two direct questions: "Do you rescreen large lanai panels?" and "Do you offer on-site service?"

That last question saves time. A lot of confusion comes from people hearing that a store "does screen repair" and assuming that includes house calls and large enclosures.

How much does it cost to repair a lanai screen?

This is the question that usually comes right after service availability. "How much does it usually cost to fix a screen?" depends on whether you are fixing one small hole, replacing one full panel, or rescreening the entire structure.

For a **small patch repair**, especially if you do it yourself, the cost can be very low. A patch kit or screen repair tape might cost less than lunch. A professional may charge a minimum trip fee that makes a tiny repair feel expensive, sometimes because the labor is not the hard part, the travel is.

For **one full lanai panel replacement**, Florida homeowners often see pricing that falls somewhere in a broad range, often from around **\$75 to \$200 or more per panel**, depending on size, material, height, access, and local labor rates. A very large panel, hard-to-reach section, or specialty screen can cost more.

For **extensive repair work**, pricing may shift from per-panel to project pricing. If multiple sections are torn, the spline is failing, or the cage needs hardware attention, the estimate can climb quickly.

When people ask, "Is it worth fixing a broken screen?" my answer is usually yes, if the damage is localized and the rest of the enclosure is still in decent shape. But if the screen is old across the whole structure, piecemeal repair can become false economy.

How much does it cost to rescreen a lanai in Florida?

For full lanai rescreening, the total cost varies with square footage, screen type, accessibility, and whether you are screening walls only or a larger cage that includes roof sections. In many parts of Florida, a basic lanai rescreen may land somewhere in the **low thousands**, while larger enclosures or premium materials push the number higher.

People also ask, "What's the average cost to rescreen a porch?" The same logic applies. A simple small porch may cost far less than a pool cage or oversized lanai with tall spans. A small lanai might be a manageable project. A pool enclosure can be a whole different budget category.

If you want rough real-world framing rather than a single magic number, this is the honest version:

A **small lanai** might cost a few hundred dollars for limited panel replacement, or somewhere around **\$1,000 to \$2,500** for broader rescreening, depending on layout and material.

A **medium-size lanai or porch enclosure** often falls somewhere above that, especially if several large panels need replacing or if labor access is awkward.

A **large cage or premium rescreen** can move well beyond those ranges.

Those numbers are not promises, and they should not be treated as quotes. Florida labor, demand after storms, and screen material choice can change pricing fast. But they are useful for setting expectations before you start calling around.

How much to screen in a small lanai?

This comes up a lot with villas, condos, and compact patio spaces. If your lanai is small and the framing is in good shape, the job can be more affordable than people fear. The lower end usually applies when the structure is easy to access, only standard mesh is used, and there is no need for frame repair.

The moment you add ladder work, custom cuts, pet-resistant mesh, or replacement of multiple worn sections, the price moves. That is why two "small" lanais on the same street can get noticeably different quotes.

One practical tip from experience: when a contractor comes out, ask whether they price by panel, by square foot, or by the overall job. It helps you compare estimates more intelligently.

Is a 20x20 screen worth it?

In Florida, 20x20 mesh is popular because it keeps out smaller insects than standard screen while still allowing decent airflow. If gnats and no-see-ums are a problem in your area, many homeowners feel it is worth the upgrade. If your lanai is mostly for daytime use and airflow is your top priority, standard fiberglass screen may be enough.

There are trade-offs. A tighter weave can reduce airflow and light a bit compared with more open mesh. Some homeowners notice that immediately, especially on breezy patios. Others barely notice and care more about bug control.

Whether a 20x20 screen is worth it depends on how you actually use the space. If you sit out at dusk, live near water, or hate tiny biting insects, it often earns its keep. If you mainly want a simple barrier against leaves and larger bugs, you may not need it.

How long do lanai screens last in Florida?

Most do not last forever, and Florida is not gentle on them. UV light slowly dries and weakens the material. Afternoon storms tug on the panels. Oak branches, palm fronds, sprinkler overspray, chlorine, lawn crews, and pets all add wear.

A decent rule of thumb is **5 to 10 years**, with plenty of exceptions. I have seen panels fail sooner when they faced direct afternoon sun every day or when they were installed with poor tension from the start. I have also seen shaded enclosures stay presentable longer than expected.

What usually shows up first is not always a dramatic tear. Often it is looseness, faded color, brittleness at the corners, or spline that is shrinking and backing out. By the time you can poke a finger through the mesh without much effort, that panel is done.

How do I repair a hole in my lanai screen?

If the hole is tiny and the surrounding material is still strong, a patch can buy you time. If the screen around the hole feels weak or sun-baked, patching is just a short-term fix.

People often ask, "Does screen repair tape actually work?" Sometimes, yes. For a clean small tear in a low-stress area, it can work surprisingly well as a temporary solution. It is quick, cheap, and useful if guests are coming over this weekend or mosquito season has kicked in. The downside is durability. Heat, humidity, and UV exposure tend to expose the limits of adhesive fixes. Tape can peel, discolor, or collect dirt, especially on sun-exposed lanais.

If the hole is larger than a small puncture, or if it sits near an edge where the mesh is under tension, replacing the whole panel is usually the better call.

How do I rescreen my lanai?

If you are comfortable with hand tools, patient, and working on a reachable panel, do it yourself rescreening can be satisfying. The first panel is usually slow. The second one goes faster. The challenge is not brute force, it is control. You want the mesh firm, not drum-tight, with even tension and clean corners.

Here is the basic flow:

1. Remove the old spline and pull out the damaged screen.
2. Clean the spline groove and inspect the frame for bends or damage.
3. Lay the new screen over the opening with a few inches of extra material on all sides.
4. Roll the spline in carefully, keeping tension even as you move around the frame.
5. Trim the excess mesh with a sharp blade once the panel is secure.

That is the neat version. The messy version includes stopping three times because the screen slipped, redoing one corner because the fabric bunched, and discovering that your old spline size was not what you thought it was. None of that is unusual. It is how beginners learn.

If you are asking, "How to replace screen porch mesh?" the process is very similar. The main difference is often the size and handling of the panel. Porch and lanai sections can be larger and less forgiving than small household

screens.

When DIY makes sense, and when it really does not

DIY works best when the panel is easily accessible, the frame is in good shape, and the stakes are low. If you mess up a small panel near ground level, you can redo it without much drama. It is also a decent option if you enjoy this kind of precise handwork and want to save on labor.

DIY becomes less attractive when the lanai is large, elevated, or weathered. A two-story enclosure, storm-damaged section, or full rescreen is where people often underestimate the work. Material cost may look reasonable, but your time, frustration, and risk climb fast.

I have seen homeowners do a beautiful job on one panel, then get worn down by panel six. That is usually the turning point where the savings stop feeling worth it.

How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens?

This question gets lumped together with ACE a lot, and the answer has a similar caveat: **it depends on the store and the service offered locally**. Home Depot generally sells screen repair materials and tools, and some locations may support limited repair options or referrals, but full lanai rescreening is not something you should assume they provide as a standard service.

If you are comparing ACE and Home Depot, think of both primarily as suppliers unless a specific location confirms otherwise. For lanai work, the better call is still a local screen contractor who actually works on enclosures in your area.

What a contractor notices that a store counter cannot

A good screen installer is not just there to swap mesh. They are looking at the whole enclosure. They notice if the frame has shifted. They notice loose fasteners, missing screws, spline grooves that are chewed up, and corners where repeated tension changes have weakened the aluminum. They also know whether your best move is a patch, one new panel, several panels, or a full lanai rescreening.

That judgment matters because homeowners often focus on the visible tear, while the real problem is age across the whole structure. If five panels are brittle and one finally split, replacing only the obvious damage might not solve much for long.

A few smart questions to ask before hiring anyone

Before you book the work, ask what screen material they recommend for your location and why. Ask whether they replace spline as part of the repair. Ask if the quote includes haul-away of old screen. Ask how they handle large or hard-to-reach panels. Those answers tell you a lot about how [Lanai Screen Enclosure Repair](#) thorough the job will be.

If you are near the coast, mention that. If you have pets, mention that too. Pet-resistant mesh can be worth it in the right area, but it is not always the best fit for every panel because it can be heavier and behave differently during installation.

And if you only need one repair, ask whether the new panel will visually match the older surrounding screens. A brand-new black panel next to sun-faded charcoal panels can stand out more than people expect.

So, should you start with ACE?

Yes, if your need is small, portable, or strictly material-related. No, if you are expecting on-site lanai rescreening in Florida as a standard hardware-store service.

That answer may feel less convenient, but it is usually the [screen replacement for lanai](#) honest one. ACE can be a great stop for tools and supplies. It may even help with a small screen frame, depending on the location. But for a lanai, especially in Florida where heat, storms, and large enclosures are part of the picture, you will usually get better results by calling a company that specializes in screen cages, patios, and lanais every day.

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If your enclosure has one clean tear and the rest of the mesh still feels strong, a targeted fix is often worth it. If the whole lanai looks tired, brittle, or loose, a full rescreen tends to save headaches in the long run. The trick is matching the repair to the real condition of the space, not just the first hole you noticed.