

CARE & FINISHING GUIDE

Notice

Doors must be finished, sealed or suitably protected no later than 14 days after arriving at the jobsite. Doors may swell or twist and wood components may split or crack if not finished within 14 days. Failure to finish the unit within 14 days may cause product damage and may void the limited warranty.

General Guide

1. Doors must be stored flat on a level surface in a dry, well ventilated building.
2. Avoid dragging doors across one another and keep doors clean.
3. Doors should be conditioned to average prevailing relative humidity of the locality before hanging.
4. Doors should not be subject to extreme or rapid changes in heat or humidity. Avoid sudden changes such as forced heat to dry out a building.
5. If the doors are to be stored on the job site, all ends and edges must be sealed with an effective quality oil-base sealer in order to prevent undue moisture absorption.
6. Doors must be fully sealed on all six sides (including on back of hinges, under the door shoes) within 24 hours of installation.
7. Stained doors must have at least three finish coats of polyurethane in order to protect doors.
8. All doors must have adequate protection against direct sunlight, rain, wind, abnormal heat and sudden change in temperature. Overhang must be located right above the door. The minimum standard requirement for a 80" tall door is 48" of overhang projected out to the front and to each side of the door, for an 96" door it is 60" of overhang projected out to the front and to each side of the door.
9. Do not expose stained doors or dark painted color doors to direct sunlight in order to avoid cracking and warping.
10. For doors with southern and southwestern exposure you must have additional over-hang, in order to protect the door against direct sunlight.
11. Do not install a glass storm door in front a wood door.
12. Doors will not be warranted if finished with a water base top-coat, lacquer, or white wash.
13. Do not expose doors to stucco or water work or use them during ongoing construction.

Preparation

1. Before applying the first coat of finish, sand the door with 220 grit sandpaper. Remove all handling marks, raised grain, job site inflicted scratches and scuffs and any other undesirable blemishes. This is one of the most important steps in finishing and can be expected to take considerable time. If unit is being painted, fill all nail and fastener holes as well as any other surface cracks or imperfections using exterior grade wood filler that is compatible with the paint or finish being used.
2. Clean door thoroughly after sanding with a cloth to remove all dust or foreign material. Avoid using caustic or abrasive cleaners. All surfaces of the door must be properly dry and free of dirt, dust and other contaminants.
3. On doors that are glazed with clear glass, the finish used should be flowed from the wood slightly onto the glass. This will provide assurance against water leakage and protect the glazing "putty" from drying out.

Stain and Clear Finish

The first coat should be a stain-and-sealer, a combination of stain and sealer which colors the door and seals the surface. It is available in a wide range of colors. The stain-and-sealer should have an alkyd-resin base. Use stain with high quality ultraviolet blockers in it. Avoid using transparent or semitransparent stains on exterior wood surfaces. Solid color stains are made with a higher pigment concentration and will better protect wood against ultraviolet damage from the sun. For a clear topcoat finish, use a solvent based finish with an ultraviolet inhibitor. Under no circumstances should a lacquer-based toner or any other lacquer-based finish be used on exterior doors. For best results, a filler should be applied to fill the pores of the wood and to achieve a smooth surface. This can be done by using an exterior stain and filler combination.

Stain the door using an exterior wood stain and wipe with a soft cotton cloth to achieve the desired level of color.

The second and third coat (two top coats minimum) may be a solvent-borne (oil-base, alkyd resin-base, polyurethane resin-base) or a water-borne (latex resin-base) clear finish. Lightly sand between coats using 220 grit sand paper. Remove dust between each application.

All stain-and-clear finishes will perform measurably better if protected from the direct effects of sunlight and weathering, and refinishing will not be required as frequently.

Color variation in wood is a natural characteristic. To compensate for any wood color variation, it is expected that you make adjustments in the finish process as needed to achieve the desired results.



Paint Finish

Apply a quality oil-based primer followed by a compatible quality oil-based top coat finish. Both primer and top coat should be made by the same manufacturer and be designed to be used as a combination. Don't use a water-based primer on wood surfaces. A minimum of two finish top coats are recommended. Lightly sand between coats using 220 grit sand paper. Remove dust between each application.

Wood doors facing sun exposure should not be finished with dark paints like black or dark green. Wood may experience excessive movement and may split or crack.

If you live in a severe climate or your entry receives a lot of direct sunlight from a southern or western exposure, you'll want to examine your door's finish often. Depending on the conditions, you may also need to refinish the door more frequently.