

Set-up Your Finishing Area

Field finishing of interior doors can be accomplished by several methods, using a variety of materials. First, assemble all the materials needed for your door finishing project.

Your work area should be clean, well-lighted, dust free, well ventilated, out of direct sunlight and in a climate controlled environment. When painting and staining avoid carpeted areas, cover all areas subject to paint or stain exposure.

Storage and Handling

- Deliver doors to the building site after the plaster, drywall and/or concrete are dry.
- Store flat on a level surface in a clean, dry, well ventilated building. Protect from dirt, water and abuse. Allow air circulation. Cover the top door with a moisture barrier.
- Doors should not be subjected to abnormal or sudden variations in heat, dryness or humidity, and should not be exposed to direct sunlight. Recommended humidity and temperature are 25% - 55% RH and 50°F - 90°F (10°C - 32°C).
- Doors should be stored at least 10' away from any heat source. Excessive heat on a door creates uneven drying which results in warping, splitting, and bowing on the door surfaces.
- Doors should be climatized to the average prevailing humidity and temperature before hanging for at least 48 hours. In below-zero or extreme temperatures, doors should be stored properly in a dry building at normal room temperature for at least 72 hours before hanging.
- Handle with clean hands or gloves and do not drag doors across one another or across other surfaces.
- For additional details reference Window & Door Manufacturers Association guidelines on how to store, handle, finish and install wood doors.

Preparation

Doors should acclimate to the environment where they will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours under normal room temperature conditions (72 hours in extreme weather conditions). Avoid finishing immediately after a rain or damp weather and during periods of higher than average humidity. Ensure adequate air flow around all surfaces of the door when conditioning. Follow manufacturer's finishing instructions noting both temperature and humidity recommendations. Remove all hardware before finishing.



Materials Needed

- Rubber gloves
- Other personal protection gear as needed (eye protection/ventilator)
- Drop cloth
- Paper towels
- 180-220 grit sandpaper and sanding block
- Tack cloths
- Masking tape or painter's tape
- Stir sticks
- 1" High quality brush
- 3"-4" High quality brush
- Scraper
- Putty knives
- Utility knife or sharp blade
- Wood filler (for wood doors or jambs)
- Water based or oil based top coat (paint) - semi-gloss
- Mineral spirits - for cleanup, if oil-based paint is used
- Sawhorses

Pre-Primed Doors

Light sanding of pre-primed doors prior to painting is required. If primer has been removed or damaged from any part of the door during shipping or handling, lightly sand and re-prime the exposed areas. Ensure the primer is compatible with both the paint and existing primed door.

Before You Paint

- Doors should not be considered ready for painting when initially received. Prior to painting, sand the entire surface lightly to remove handling marks, raised grain, minor glue marks, and any other undesirable blemishes by completely block sanding all surfaces with 180-220 grit sand-paper. Fill any holes, splits or patches prior to sanding. Clean the door thoroughly after sanding with a tack cloth to remove all dust or other material. (See Figure 1 & 2)

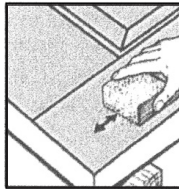


Figure 1

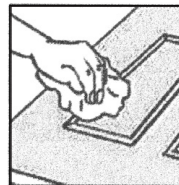


Figure 2

- Read paint manufacturer's instructions.
- If finishing more than one door, complete one door and evaluate the finish before finishing multiple doors.

Paint Recommendations

- Finish doors with the door laying horizontal on a bench or workhorse. Spraying is recommended for uniform results.
- Remove any excess paint from the corners of the panels or lite grilles by feathering with a dry 1" brush.
- Allow paint to dry thoroughly before applying a second coat. Consult the paint manufacturer's instructions for drying times. Sand in-between coats. Do not sand the final top coat.
- All six sides of the door must be sealed. (See Figure 4)
- After the door is painted and completely dry, install hardware.
- French doors or doors with glass: remove protective film immediately after finishing the door by using a sharp blade or utility knife held at a 45-degree angle to lightly cut around the perimeter of the glass as close to the wood moulding as possible.

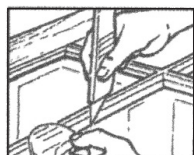


Figure 3

Paint Recommendations (continued)

Do not make an X mark in the middle of the glass with a knife as this could scratch the glass. Use a non-sharp object to lift a corner and remove the plastic. Use protective gloves during this process.

- If finishing more than one door, complete one door and evaluate the finish before finishing multiple doors.

Paint

A quality finish is achieved with a minimum of two coats following the paint manufacturer's instructions for drying time and application. If a higher quality finish is preferred additional coats and sanding will be required following the coating manufacturer's instructions.

After You Paint

- Remove any excess paint from the corners of the panels by lightly brushing with a dry 1" brush.
- Allow paint to dry thoroughly before applying a second coat. Consult the paint manufacturer's instructions for drying times. Sand in-between coats. Do not sand the final top coat.
- All six sides of the door must be painted to maintain the warranty. (See Figure 4)
- After the door is painted and completely dry, install hardware.

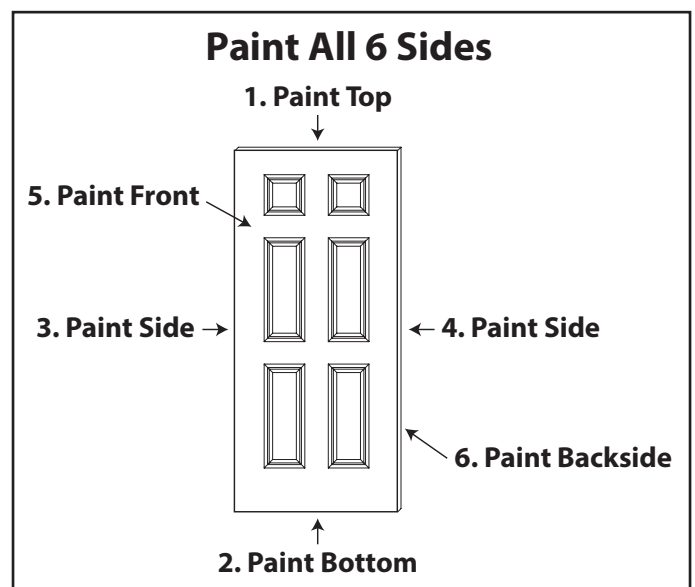


Figure 4