

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. See list above.

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

Upon arrival at the jobsite, doors should acclimate to the environment and will need to be installed and finished within 48 hours under normal room temperature conditions (maximum of 72 hours in extreme weather conditions). Failure to do so will void the warranty. 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
- 150-220 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 alkyd enamel top coat (paint) recommended
- Mineral spirits - for cleanup, if oil-based paint is used
- Sawhorses

Pre-Primed Doors

Light sanding of the water-based 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 water-based 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 150-220 grit sand-paper. Fill any holes, splits or patches prior to sanding. Ensure any exposed wood on the beveled edge of the door is sanded and prepared to the same standard as the rest of the door. Clean the entire door thoroughly after sanding with a solvent cleaner (Methyl Hydrate or a 50/50 mix of Denatured Alcohol and water recommended) and a clean tack cloth to remove all dust or foreign material.”(See Figure 1 & 2)

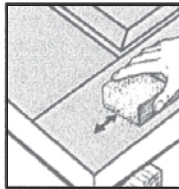


Figure 1

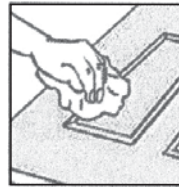


Figure 2

- 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 or stained 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

We recommend a water-based Alkyd Enamel 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.

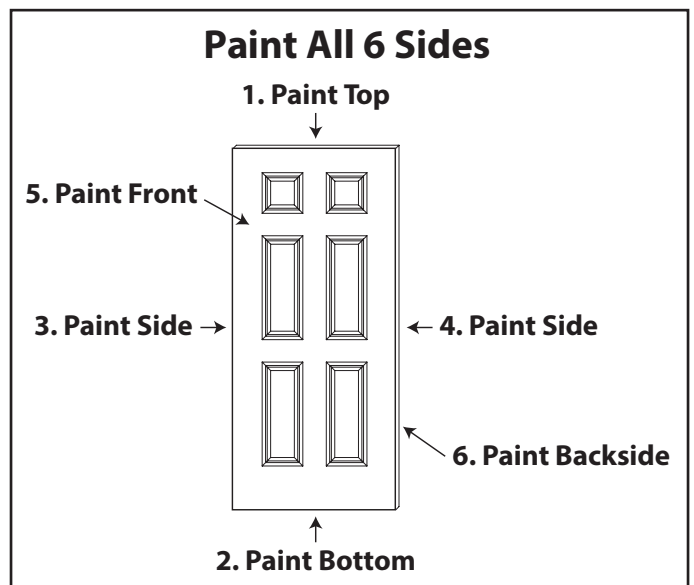


Figure 4



Care and Finishing Procedure for Wood Doors

1. Before applying the first coat of finish, sand the entire surface lightly with (180 grit) sandpaper. This removes fingerprints and handling marks, as well as opening the wood grain to enhance the stain penetration. For doors with square shaker sticking, lightly ease the outside edge of the sticking with sandpaper. To avoid cross-grain scratches, always sand with the direction of the grain.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR DOUGLAS FIR DOORS: Douglas Fir doors should also be wiped down with Acetone prior to sanding. As Douglas Fir has a heavy sap content, this extra step will clean the surface of any sap stain.

2. Adjust or align components if necessary before finishing. Wood panels “float” and may be knocked into alignment with a wood block and hammer. Be careful not to damage door.

3. After sanding, clean door thoroughly with a cloth to remove all dust or foreign material. Do not use caustic or abrasive cleaners.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR KNOTTY ALDER DOORS: After sanding, apply a wood conditioner (pre-sealer) to all Knotty Alder doors. Follow wood conditioner manufacturer’s application instructions before proceeding.

4. Hang door before finishing, and then remove to finish properly.

5. All surfaces of the door must be properly finished. The edges (top, bottom and sides) should be coated with each and every coat of finish that is applied to the exterior surface of the door. (Figure 5) Doors must be dry before finishing.

6. On doors that have plastic film protection on glass, removal of plastic film protection immediately after applying the finish is required. Failure to remove the plastic film at this time may cause harm to the glass and will create difficulty in removing the film at a later time. Do not use razor blades or sharp objects to remove the film or clean the glass. These items will scratch the glass.

Maintenance

Your door has been handcrafted to last for years to come. But, like any fine piece of furniture, its finish will require some simple, periodic maintenance to keep it looking great and provide protection against the elements. Regular finish maintenance is also a requirement of the warranty that’s included with every Trimlite door.

Here are some signs to watch for. They indicate that it’s time for some simple, easy-to-perform maintenance:

- Hairline cracks in the top coat of the finish
- Changes in the color of the finish
- Changes in the texture of the finish, such as flaking or scaling
- Dullness or chalkiness in the finish

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 maintain the door finish more frequently.

Stile and rail wood doors have multiple areas for moisture to gain access, therefore it’s very important to pay particular attention to adequate overhang and use only premium high quality coatings and finishing techniques. In the event of little or no overhang please ask your Trimlite Customer Service Representative for other door options.

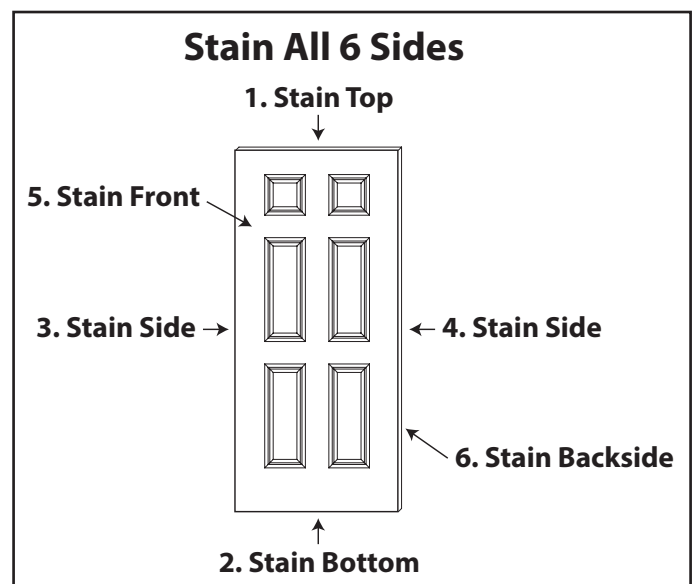


Figure 5