



## **Care and Maintenance for Interior Wood Doors**

### **Handling**

- Do not walk on any door units. Some units contain glass.
- Once the interior doors are received, the doors must be immediately inspected for quality, including correct size, machining, and species of veneer
- Avoid dragging doors across one another and keep doors clean. Handle with clean gloves or dry clean hands.
- Deliver doors to the job site after plaster, drywall, or cement is dry to avoid excess moisture
- Store door slabs stacked horizontally on a level surface 4" above ground with cross supports; do not lean doors against a wall
- Keep doors away from direct sunlight and sources of extreme heat, cold, or humidity
- Doors should be conditioned to average prevailing relative humidity of the locality before hanging.
- Doors should not be subjected to extreme or rapid changes in heat or humidity. Avoid sudden changes such as forced heat to dry out a building.
- Always keep a cover on doors with a cover sheet, cardboard, or plywood
- If the doors are to be stored on the job site, all surfaces including ends and edges must be sealed with an effective finish within 48 hours to prevent undue moisture absorption.

### **Preparation for Finishing**

- Before applying the first coat of finish, sand the entire surface lightly with (150 or 220 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: 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.
- 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.
- After sanding, clean door thoroughly with a cloth to remove all dust or foreign material. Do not use caustic or abrasive cleaners.

- 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 later. We recommend using a razor blade to score the plastic and use the blade to peel up one corner before peeling away the plastic in one piece.

### **Fitting and Hanging**

- Hang door before finishing, and then remove to finish properly. Please see our recommended installation instructions on our website to ensure a proper installation.
- When hanging door, allow adequate clearance for swelling of door or frame in damp weather. Allow approximately 3/16" clearance for swelling when the door is installed in fully dry conditions. Jambs must be plumb.
- Do not cut doors down in height by more than 2" (we recommend 1-1/2" from bottom, 1/2" maximum from top to maintain door proportions). Care should be taken in cutting doors down in width to avoid exposing engineered components. Use a sharp fine-tooth saw for trimming ends of doors.
- Caution must be used to avoid impairing the strength of the door when fitting for locks. Allow at least 1" of wood back of mortise.
- Use three hinges on doors up to 7'6" in height and four hinges on doors over 7'6". Hinges must be set in a straight line to prevent distortion.

### **Finishing**

Please see our recommended finishing instructions on our website to ensure the best finish option for your door. Please note that all surfaces of the door must be properly finished. The edges (top, bottom, and sides) should be coated with each coat of finish that is applied to the surface of the door. Doors must be dry before finishing another coat.

### **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 and 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 topcoat 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

- Door should be cleaned a few times a year with a mild detergent

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.

02/2023

