

Exterior Wood Door Finishing Instructions

Finishing Timing

- Unfinished doors must be sealed or finished on all six sides of the door within thirty (30) days of invoice, as stated by DSA's Standard Warranty.

Stain and Paint Selection Guidelines

- Heat build-up resulting from dark finishes can be damaging and will require extra maintenance, especially on doors that receive significant or strong sun exposure.
- Black paint and stain are not recommended on Mahogany, Knotty Alder, Walnut or other traditional wood doors, and are excluded from DSA's Standard Warranty.
- Black paint and stain paint on our high-performance Acetylated Accoya doors are covered by DSA's Wynstellar Warranty.
- Accoya's acetylation process can result in discolorations and high-contrast wood grain. To cover any discolorations, semi-transparent to opaque stains may be preferable on Acetylated Accoya doors.
- DSA's stain-grade Mahogany doors have open pores and may require multiple coats of paint and primer for an opaque finish. Paint-grade and primed doors are available through our Custom Department.
- DSA uses water-based stains on our pre-finished doors. Contact your DSA Representative to order a stain kit.
- DSA recommends avoiding acrylic paints because they tend to peel off easily.
- When selecting stain and clear coat, or paint and primer, be sure to select compatible products and apply according to the product manufacturers' instructions.

Staining Raw Doors:

- If the door or frame contain glass, cover the glass perimeters with masking tape to protect the glass from scratches while sanding and prevent stain from seeping behind the glass.
- Lightly hand sand the door and frame with 180 or 220 grit sandpaper, in the direction of the grain, to remove any marks or debris.
- Wipe the surface with a dry non-abrasive cloth before applying your stain.
- Following the stain manufacturer instructions, carefully apply a high-quality, exterior-grade stain to all raw edges of the door. Let dry.
- Seal the door with a high-quality, exterior-grade UV clear coat system according to manufacturer instructions.
- Be sure to stain and seal the hinge groove and bore side of the door.
- Note the stain and clear coat used for homeowner's future reference.

Painting Raw Doors:

- If the door or frame contain glass, cover the glass perimeters with masking tape to protect the glass from scratches while sanding and prevent paint from seeping behind the glass.
- Lightly hand sand the door and frame with 180 or 220 grit sandpaper, in the direction of the grain, to remove any marks or debris.
- Wipe the surface with a dry non-abrasive cloth before applying your stain.
- Apply at least one coat of high-quality, exterior-grade stain-blocking primer to all raw edges of the door, following the product manufacturer's instructions.
- After the primer fully dries, lightly hand sand the surface with 180 or 220 grit sandpaper.
- Wipe the surface with a dry non-abrasive cloth to remove sanding debris.

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- Following the paint manufacturer instructions, carefully apply two or more coats of high-quality exterior-grade paint to all raw edges of the door.
- Let the paint dry between each coat, then lightly hand sand and wipe away debris.
- Note the paint used for homeowner's future reference.

Painting Primed Doors:

- If the door or frame contain glass, cover the glass perimeters with masking tape to protect the glass from scratches while sanding and prevent paint from seeping behind the glass.
- Lightly hand sand the factory prime coat with 180 or 220 grit sandpaper.
- Wipe the surface with a dry non-abrasive cloth to remove sanding debris.
- Carefully apply an even coat of high-quality exterior-grade paint to all raw edges of the door following the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- Let the paint dry, then lightly hand sand and wipe away sanding debris.
- Following the paint manufacturer's instructions, carefully apply additional coat(s) of high-quality exterior-grade paint to all raw edges of the door as needed, letting each coat dry and lightly sanding between coats.
- Note the paint used for homeowner's future reference.