

## Exterior Wood Door Maintenance Instructions

The life span of a wood door is determined by the maintenance it receives. It is essential to maintain the top coat, or paint, on the exterior facing side of the door in order to avoid the costly or time-consuming process of refinishing the door

### Maintenance Instructions for Stained Doors:

- Regularly clean the door:
  - Brush off all surfaces with a non-abrasive cloth.
  - Wipe glass using a gentle glass cleaner, being careful not to allow any to drip on the door finish. If drips occur, pat the spot lightly with a dry cloth. Do not wipe as this could smear the finish.
  - Clean the exterior surface, interior surface, and hardware using mild dish soap mixed with warm water and a non-abrasive cloth.
  - Open the door to clean around the edges of the door and frame.
  - Rinse away all soapy residue.
  - It's important to dry the door after cleaning. Wipe it gently with a dry towel or cloth. In humid areas, consider putting a fan nearby to help the door quickly dry.
  - Do not use a wood or furniture polish, or any acidic products such as lemon oil.
  - Do not use a hose or power washer on the door.
- Once a year, or more often for doors that receive direct sunlight, inspect the door on all six sides for signs of degrading top coat or fading stain.
- In climates with large fluctuations in humidity, seasonal wood movement and panel shrinkage may occur. This can expose a slight gap between the panel and stile. To avoid a distracting unstained line, touch-up this portion of the panel and apply a clear coat according to the product manufacturer instructions.
- Once or more per year, apply two or more coats of a high-quality compatible exterior-grade UV clear coat according to clear coat manufacturer instructions, in order to protect the finish and prevent damage to the wood.
- If the door's protective clear coat is not regularly maintained, it may degrade and cause the finish to break down. A degraded door will show fading, chalking, flaking, and/or cracking, and will require refinishing.
- To refinish a degraded door, the door will need to be carefully sanded down to the raw veneer surface, without over-sanding through the veneer surface. After sanding, follow DSA's Exterior Wood Door Finishing Instructions to refinish the door.

### Maintenance Instructions for Painted Doors:

- Regularly clean the door:
  - Brush off all surfaces with a non-abrasive cloth.
  - Wipe glass with glass cleaner, being careful not to allow any to drip on the door.
  - Clean the exterior surface, interior surface, and hardware using mild dish soap mixed with warm water and a non-abrasive cloth.
  - Open the door to clean around the edges of the door and frame.
  - Rinse away all soapy residue, and dry the surface with a non-abrasive towel or cloth.
  - Do not use a hose or power washer on the door.
- Once or more per year, inspect the door's painted finish for signs of fading, blistering, or cracking.
- Re-paint before the original paint finish degrades, or immediately following any signs of wear, to keep the door in good condition.