
WOOD DOOR FINISHING OPTIONS

The Detering Company's wood doors are crafted with only the finest materials and come in a wide variety of stain or paint options. Our broad selection of color chips on hand allows you to experiment to find the perfect finish for your project.

First, evaluate the conditions your door must endure, such as direct exposure to climates, before deciding a finish. For a painted finish, you can apply either oil-based or latex resin-based paints over an oil-based primer. Be sure to follow the finishing instructions provided. Keep in mind that latex/water-based primers may contribute to raised grain.

PREPARATION FOR FINISHING

- Before applying the first coat of finish, sand the entire surface with 5/0 sandpaper (180 grit). This is to remove fingerprints, handling marks and any raised grain, and it will help ensure a more uniform finish.
- Clean door thoroughly after sanding with a cloth to remove all dust or foreign material. Avoid using compressed air to blow off door as moisture or oil in air will cause spotting. Avoid using caustic or abrasive cleaners.
- Hang door before finishing then remove to finish properly.
- When staining, a wood conditioner may be used to help achieve a more uniform finish. (Be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions closely).
- All surfaces of the door must be properly finished. The edges (top, bottom and sides) should be thoroughly coated with each application.
- Maple requires a conditioner to avoid streaking and spotting.

EXTERIOR FINISHING

1. Stain-and-Clear Finish

The first coat of stain may be a stain-and-sealer, a combination of stain and sealer that colors the door and seals the surface. It is available in a wide range of colors. The stain-and-sealer should have an alkyd-resin base. Under no circumstances should a lacquer-based toner or any other lacquer-based finish be used on exterior doors.

The second and third coat (two top coats minimum) may be a solvent-borne (oil-based, alkyd resin-based, polyurethane resin-based) or a water-borne (latex resin-based) clear finish. On doors that are glazed, the finish used should be flowed from the wood slightly on the glass. This will provide assurance against water leakage and protect the glazing compound from drying out.

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SOLVENT-BORNE VS. WATER-BORNE CLEAR FINISHES

Solvent-Borne

Advantages: Faster drying, harder and more water resistant. May be applied under variable weather conditions. **Disadvantages:** Subject to ultra-violet degradation and not as flexible or durable as water-borne clear finish.

Water-Borne

Advantages: Very flexible, greater ultra-violet resistance and good exterior durability.

Disadvantages: Cannot be applied below 50 degrees F, long drying period, may not cure for several weeks. Water-sensitive until cure is complete. Note: Do not sand between coats of latex clear finish.

All stain-and-clear finishes will perform measurably better if protected from the direct effect of sunlight and weathering, and refinishing will not be required as frequently.

2. Paint Finish

Either oil-based or latex resin-based exterior grade paints may be used on doors. Oil-based paints offer more resistance to passage of water (liquid and vapor) than latex resin-based paints, but the latter have better durability and color retention.

Doors should be sealed with a good quality oil-based primer followed by two topcoats of either an oil-based or latex resin-based paint. (Both primer and topcoat should be made by the same manufacturer and designed to be used in combination)

Note: When exposure to direct sun or rain is a factor, where possible, doors should be sealed with a premium quality oil-base primer, followed by two topcoats of a premium quality oil-based paint.

INTERIOR FINISHING

1. Stain-and-Clear Finish

A solvent-borne finish system is recommended for interior doors and may be a lacquer-based system. For best performance, a minimum of two clear topcoats should be used over stains.

2. Paint Finish

Doors should be sealed with a good quality oil-based primer followed by two topcoats of solvent-based or latex enamel.

MAINTENANCE

Your door has been built 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 to provide proper protection against the elements.