

REN*STUDIO

NOTES ON PAINTING

Raw fronts offer clients the most customisation potential. There are two options for finishing Ren Studio Raw fronts – professional spraying (aka ‘2Packed’) or hand painting, either by a professional house painter or as a DIY project. If choosing the latter, Raw fronts can be painted absolutely any colour, are economical, and easy to touch up. Painting joinery in this way is standard across the US and much of Europe and is really nothing to fear! That said, getting a quality paint finish is essential for durability and aesthetics, and there’s a few things to note before undertaking a painting project of this type.

SPECIFICATION_ Our Raw fronts are made from 18mm thick moisture-resistant MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard). MDF is an engineered wood product made by breaking down wood residuals into wood fibres, combining it with resin binder, and forming panels by applying high temperature and pressure. The product is smooth and ‘raw’ to one side and bonded to the reverse side with a hard-wearing, wipeable, white melamine surface. Small dark spots and (at times large) light-coloured blemishes are sometimes present on the Raw face as pictured below. These surface markings are the result of the board manufacturing process, can’t be seen when painted over and are not considered defects.



The panels are ‘factory finished’, meaning they are cut to size and routed, but not hand sanded before delivery. On some profiled panels (notably Shaker and Slim Shaker), very light indentations may be present in the panels from machining – these are very easily sanded out and are not considered defects. The indentations are not always visible before painting therefore sanding is a must before painting begins.

As Raw panels are unfinished to one side, they’re significantly more at risk of water damage and we highly recommend panels are painted as soon as possible after delivery. We also recommend against ordering any Ren Studio panels significantly earlier than required for the project. Panels should not be stored vertically for any length of time (i.e. stood up against a wall) as it will cause the product to bow.



PREPARATION_Raw fronts require preparation before painting. Hand sanding with fine grade sandpaper, using a sanding block or orbital sander is recommended, with particular attention given to inset panels.

Priming the panels is also essential, and we recommend two 'good' coats of an acrylic water-based primer to begin. Lightly sand between coats. Sanding between coats may seem excessive but really impacts the quality of the finish, so be sure not to skip it.

We recommend prepping and painting the fronts in a flat position on saw horses / trestles.

PAINTING_For top coats, we recommend a brush or spray painting. A paint roller may be used, however the painter must work quickly to drag a fine brush across the wet paint surface to even out the finish. This is absolutely essential when using a roller to avoid 'orange peel' texture – which is definitely not what you're going for! Using the roller-brush technique requires the painter to work quickly and adeptly – we recommend a brush for less experienced painters.

Depending on the colour choice, apply 2-3 coats of top coat, again with a light sand between coats. The paint specification is usually a satin or semi-gloss water-based enamel.

Specialist paint shops can provide further advice should it be required.

If you have any questions about our Raw panels, please contact us at info@renstudio.com.au before placing your order.