

Use and care Manual



Important Procedure Instructions:

Before proceeding to finish your doors, please read and fully understand the entire procedure. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's warnings as indicated on the product labels.

Maintenance Recommendations:

- Our doors are intended for indoor use.
- It is strongly recommended that a qualified expert handles the installation of the door.
- After unpacking, install your door promptly.
- Do not install your doors on unfinished projects.
- Every door should be equipped with a minimum of three (3) hinges.
- Before installation, apply a pre-finish and finish to both sides of the door, including all four edges.
- Set the lock after the door is installed.
- Our doors come with two lateral wood reinforcements designed for accommodating various lock types.
- This product is specifically designed for indoor use. Please avoid direct exposure to water or harsh sunlight.
- Allow the product to acclimate to the work environment for 48 hours before applying the finishing touches.
- Our doors feature a smooth white primed finish, which is ready for painting in a color of your choice.

Storage and Handling:

- Arrange for product delivery after the drywall installation is finished.
- Ensure doors are delivered to the building site only after the plaster, drywall, or concrete has fully dried.
- If doors are stored at the job-site for over one week, it is essential to seal the top, bottom, and side edges. Be cautious to prevent any damage to the edges or faces.
- Store the doors away from direct sunlight.
- Avoid subjecting doors to extreme or sudden changes in temperature, dryness, or humidity, and ensure they are shielded from direct sunlight.
- Avoid placing the product near a direct heat source. Doors should be stored at least 10 feet away from any heat source. Excessive heat concentrated on one area of the door can lead to uneven drying, potentially causing warping and checking on the door faces.
- Store the product in a dry location with minimal fluctuations in heat and humidity. Choose covered storage sites that are shielded from direct sunlight, humidity, and extreme weather.

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conditions. Doors should be stored flat on a level surface within a clean, dry, and well-ventilated building. Protect them from dirt, water, and potential abuse while allowing for adequate air circulation. If doors are stored for extended periods, they must be sealed with an oil-based sealer or primer.

- Always store doors flat on a level surface and avoid leaning them against one another for extended periods, especially stacking them on top of each other.
- Prior to hanging, doors should be conditioned to the prevailing humidity levels. In temperatures below freezing, doors should be stored appropriately in a dry building at standard temperatures for a minimum of three days before installation.
- Handle doors with clean hands or gloves, and refrain from dragging them across one another or any other surfaces to prevent damage.

Getting Started:

When embarking on your finishing project, it's essential to begin with the right tools and materials. Keep in mind that the quality of your tools directly impacts the quality of your results. Here's how to get started:

Tool Selection:

Carefully choose the tools you'll use for the job. Remember that investing in higher-quality tools will lead to superior results. Tools to consider include:

- **Brushes:** Opt for black china or synthetic bristle brushes. These brushes are known for their effectiveness in achieving excellent finishes. The choice between the two may depend on your personal preferences and the type of finish you're applying.

Additional Tips:

- **Proper Prep:** Before you begin, make sure the surface is clean and free of imperfections. Sand, fill, and smooth the wood as needed to create an ideal canvas for your finish.
- **Safety:** When working with finishing materials, ensure you have proper ventilation and wear any necessary personal protective equipment, such as gloves or a mask.
- **Follow Instructions:** Whether you're using paint, stain, or another finishing product, carefully read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results.

Tips for Painting:

When it comes to field-finishing wood doors, there are various methods and materials at your disposal. Here are some tips to guide you through the process:

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1. **Gather Your Materials:** Before starting your door finishing project, make sure you have all the necessary materials at hand. You'll need:
 - Drop cloths to protect your work area.
 - Paper towels for cleanup.
 - Wood filler to address any imperfections.
 - A scraper and putty knives for surface preparation.
 - Sandpaper and a sanding block for smoothing surfaces.
 - Tack cloths to remove dust and debris.
 - Stir sticks for thorough mixing of finishing products.
 - High-quality pure bristle brushes or applicators for applying the finish.
2. **Surface Preparation:** Ensure the door's surface is clean and smooth. Fill any imperfections with wood filler, then use a scraper and sandpaper to create a smooth, even surface.
3. **Dust Removal:** After sanding, use tack cloths to eliminate dust and debris from the door's surface. This step is crucial for a clean finish.
4. **Choosing Your Finish:** Select the appropriate finish based on your preferences, whether it's paint, stain, or another finishing product. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the chosen finish.
5. **Application:** Apply the finish using your high-quality pure bristle brush or applicator, following a consistent and even technique. Multiple coats may be necessary; allow each coat to dry fully before applying the next.
6. **Drying and Curing:** Ensure the door is left to dry and cure according to the finish's recommended drying times. This step is vital for a durable and attractive finish.
7. **Cleanup:** Properly clean your brushes and tools after each use to maintain their quality and prolong their lifespan.

Important Painting Notes:

- **Thorough Preparation:** Well-executed prep-sanding is a crucial step that cannot be rushed. It plays a vital role in achieving an outstanding finish. Take your time to ensure thorough prep-sanding, as it significantly impacts the outcome of your project.
- **Primer Consideration:** It's worth noting that some paints may require specific primers, especially UV-resistant products. While our primer is versatile, it's essential to verify the specific requirements from the paint manufacturer. Doing so will guarantee proper adhesion and enhance the performance of the finish.

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Creating the Ideal Work Environment:

When working on your finishing project, it's essential to establish an optimal work environment for the best results. Consider the following factors:

- **Cleanliness:** Ensure that your work area is clean and entirely free from dust and debris. A clean environment is crucial for achieving a flawless finish.
- **Climate Control:** Maintain a climate-controlled workspace. Consistent temperature and humidity levels will help ensure the success of your project.
- **Ventilation:** Adequate ventilation is essential. Proper air circulation will help disperse fumes and prevent the buildup of volatile compounds in the workspace.
- **Dry Conditions:** Your work area should be dry and away from high-moisture areas. Excess moisture can negatively affect the quality of your finish.
- **Protection from Sunlight:** Avoid direct sunlight in your workspace. Sunlight exposure can lead to uneven drying and affect the final appearance of the finish.

Preparation Steps:

Before you begin the finishing process, thorough preparation is key to achieving the best results. Follow these steps:

- 1. Inspect for Blemishes:** Examine the product carefully before starting the finishing process. Identify and address any blemishes or imperfections on the door's surface.
- 2. Sanding:** Thoroughly sand all surfaces using 220-grit sandpaper. Prep sanding is a crucial step, whether you're applying a stain or paint finish. By sanding the door before finishing, you accomplish two important tasks:
 - Removing excess primer or any other substances.
 - Opening the wood fibers to allow for proper adhesion of the stain or paint. Proper sanding ensures that the paint adheres smoothly and evenly.
- 3. Clean the Surface:** After sanding, remove all excess material from the door. Vacuum the surface to eliminate dust, and then wipe the door down with a slightly damp rag. This step is essential to ensure a clean and debris-free surface, which is vital for a flawless finish.

Finishing Tips:



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To prepare your interior door for installation, follow a step-by-step process involving sanding and finishing. Here's how to go about it:

Step 1: Sanding

- Our Door District doors come with a smooth white primed finish, ready for you to paint in a color of your choice.
- Start by lightly sanding the door with 220-grit sandpaper to remove any handling marks before applying the finish. Ensure the surface is clean and dry, free from dirt, grease, glue stains, and machine marks. You should also sand lightly between coats for a better finish.
- It's not recommended to sand pre-primed doors before painting. After sanding, use a soft cotton or fiber cloth to clean the door and remove any debris.

Step 2: Sealing and Painting

- The Door District doors are already primed, so re-priming or undercoating is not recommended. Some environmental conditions can negatively impact the performance of such primers and undercoats.
- To achieve the optimal finish, make sure to thoroughly read, understand, and follow all application and drying instructions provided by the paint manufacturer.
- Collaborate with your finish supplier to select the right product for your project.
- Seal all exposed wood surfaces with every coat, including the top and bottom rails. When painting the stiles and rails, use long strokes to prevent paint from pooling where horizontal and vertical components meet. Paint the four edges last (top, bottom, left, and right).
- Allow the paint to dry completely before applying a second coat, following the paint manufacturer's recommended drying times.
- The entire door, including all six sides, must be completely sealed with a minimum of two coats to prevent moisture absorption.
- After finishing is completed, reinstall all hardware.

By following these finishing tips, you'll ensure a professional and long-lasting finish for your interior door. If you have specific questions or need further guidance, please feel free to ask.

Thank you for using THE DOOR DISTRICT® products.