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Door Express Handling, Finishing, and Installation Guidelines

Handling:

1. Do not expose doors to moisture or snow at anytime. Doors must always be stored flat, in a clean dry area, protected from dirt, dust, excessive moisture and heat, extreme temperatures, and abuse. Keep in mind prolonged exposure to sunlight may cause discoloration in some doors. If doors are to be stored in an area for longer than 48 hours, the doors must be sealed on all exposed surfaces. Sealing includes top and bottom rails, behind hinges, and in knob holes.
2. Doors should always be handled with gloves or clean hands to ensure oils do not contact surfaces to be stained. Never drag doors or place them directly on concrete. Never leave doors leaning against a wall for extended periods of time as they may warp.

Finishing:

1. When finishing, keep in mind that wood doors are influenced by changes in moisture as a result of the surrounding environment. To ensure uniform moisture control all surfaces must be finished equally. Remove all hardware before finishing doors.
2. Sand all surfaces with 120, 150, or 180 grit sandpaper to remove all blemishes, scuffs, raised grains, and undesirable marks. Solid core flush doors will inevitably compress the face grain veneer while they are stacked. This requires a sanding of the overall surface to open the veneer grain to receive an even field finish. Always sand with the grain to avoid cross grain scratches. Use lighting from multiple directions to check that there are no scratches on the door. If an orbital scratch cannot be seen from a distance of 3 feet it is considered to be acceptable. Veneered doors may require special finishing care. Be sure to discuss finishing techniques with your sales rep. 0.080 veneers require a tack/fog coat to secure veneer's before a second coat is applied to avoid blotching
3. Wash door lightly with acetone to remove pitch, oils, and dirt.
4. Be aware that certain species of wood, most notably oak, have been known to contain extracts that will unfavourably react to foreign materials in the finishing process. To help safeguard against this, do not use rusty containers, steel wool on bare wood, or other contaminated components in the finishing process.

5. Dark coloured finishes are not recommended since direct sunlight on a dark finish will cause warping. Water based coatings are not recommended for use on unfinished wood and may cause highlighted joints, raised grain, and veneer splits. Always follow the instructions and recommendations when applying finishing products. Doors finished in dark colors, particularly black, are not covered by warranty due to extreme temperature gain.
6. If the door to be sealed contains glass, mask each lite 1/16th of an inch onto the glass surface allowing sealer and top coats to penetrate between glass and wood surfaces. Apply two seal coats of wood conditioner or sealer for stain grade, and two coats of primer for paint grade respectively. Doors should be lightly sanded between each coat; finishing time requires about 8 to 12 hours between each coat. If rolling, back brush to remove bubbles, if spraying ensure all areas, are covered, especially areas next to glass and joints.
7. For stain grade doors Door Express recommends using Sikkens Cetol 1 for sealer and Sikkens Cetol 23 for the polyurethane top coats. For primers on paint grade doors, latex or oil based is acceptable.
8. Confirm that the door surface being finished is satisfactory in both smoothness and color after each coat. Test finish a sample to confirm the final color before finishing doors. Water spots can be sanded out before finishing, do not finish over them. On doors with glass, apply 1/32" of an inch bead of butyl caulking between the stops, the lites, and both sides of the unit to ensure a water tight envelope.

Installation:

For Exterior Doors:

Ensure rough opening for door is large enough to allow for the installation of shims behind the jamb and at the hinges. Rough opening should be 2 inches larger than the door width and 3 inches larger than the door height. Pre-hung doors must be secured to a stud. If secured to a casing alone, the margins may shift.

For Interior Doors:

Ensure rough opening for door is large enough to allow for the installation of shims behind the jamb and at the hinges. Rough opening should be 2 inches larger than the door width and 2 inches larger than the door height. Pre-hung doors must be secured to a stud. If secured to a casing alone, the margins may shift.

1. Unless they have been properly finished, do not install doors into buildings with wet cement, paint or plaster.

2. Due to a variation in the thickness of doors, and finishes, stops must be set to the door and secured after hanging. All pilot holes for hardware must be drilled prior to installing hardware.
3. When installing a pair of doors, first install the frame using one 3 ½” inch Robertson screw through one of the hinges and one directly beneath the screw. **Ensure the frame is level by using a level, Most walls are not level so no not assume a frame is level if it is level to the wall only. Only screw in the screw all the way after the door is hung on the frame.** Ensure all screws in the door are tight and the door is not sagging. Ensure the tops of both doors are level with each other.
4. When the screws are tight, install one screw in the center of the header to bring it even from side to side. Then install one screw in the sill to pull the sill down and level. Check under the doors to ensure level and recheck to ensure doors are flat from side to side and not proud to one another. If proud, remove the 3 ½” inch screws on one side and move the top or bottom of the frame in or out to level the doors. Then slightly shim the bottom sill to ensure a 5 degree angle is maintained.
5. Insulate between the jamb and the wall as necessary and apply casings and caulk. The doors should not swing in or out on their own. If they do, the jamb is tilted to the inside or outside and needs to be levelled vertically. If the doors are binding in the jamb, it is likely that the jamb is tweaked to the inside or outside and needs to be screwed flat at a ninety degree angle to the wall. There should be about 1/8” to 3/16” of space between the doors to allow for natural expansion and contraction of the door slabs. If there is too much space, the 3 ½” screws are too tight, if not enough space, the screws are too loose.
6. For single doors, ensure that the top header of the jamb and the top of the door are even from hinge to latch side.
7. When installing locksets, keep in mind that if the torque is too much, using a power drill will strip the screw heads. All final tightening should be done with a manual screwdriver.
8. Wood Doors require permanent protection from the elements

Industry standards for overhang apply as follows: $(x=1/2y)$ X is the length of the overhang required and Y is the distance from the bottom of the door to the base of the overhang. For harsh environments or areas with constant humidity the formula is $(X=Y)$.

If you have any further questions regarding handling, finishing, and installation, please do not hesitate to reach us at 1-888-238-2687.

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