



CARE AND HANDLING OF WOOD DOORS AND MILLWORK

Under normal conditions, all wood products contain some moisture, and wood readily exchanges moisture with the environment. This is true of all wood products, whether they are raw or finished. Although a finish will slow this process, wood will regardless react to changes in humidity and environment. Modern finishes help greatly to reduce adverse weather affects, but are not foolproof. However, in most circumstances, finished wood products will maintain their beautiful look for many years without looking 'worn'.

Wood does not change size or shape unless its moisture content changes due to humidity conditions of the environment. When humidity conditions are high, wood absorbs moisture and swells (or expands). In low humidity conditions, wood releases moisture and shrinks (or contracts). Plexus doors products have approximately a 5%-8% moisture content.

Wood products perform successfully when correctly used in a proper environment. Relative humidity inside the home should be maintained within a range of 40%-50%. Homes without proper temperature and climate control will likely experience problems with dimensional change of the wood. Care should especially be taken during site storage and installation. Other points to consider:

- Extreme moisture or dryness may cause panel expansion or contraction, joint separation, veneer checking or cracking, de-laminations, bowing of the stile/rail, expansion or contraction of the stile/rail. In exterior applications, if the door will be exposed to large amounts of direct sunlight or moisture, we recommend that regular maintenance be increased, and a protective protrusion (like an awning or portico) be installed. These protective additions also help to keep the home cooler during the summer.
- If a door needs to be trimmed for fitting purposes, all exposed edges must be sealed and refinished immediately.
- Doors with a painted finish will reveal "seams" at the joints if extreme wood movement occurs due to environmental conditions.
- If doors are ordered unfinished, doors should be **completely finished on all six sides within 14 days of delivery**. Finishing/sealing the door will minimize and slow the absorption of moisture but it will not eliminate it, so proper humidity levels are important throughout storage, installation, and use.
- If Plexus is required to deliver and install a door where it is shrouded, tarped, and/or covered with sheeting, the warranty is modified. Any retouches due to damage will be quoted and invoiced accordingly.

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UNFINISHED DOORS

If you order your doors unfinished, some additional hand-sanding is required at the jobsite before finishing to remove any handling marks, oil residue from fingerprints, surface blemishes, and other minor imperfections. Plexus Doors Ltd. is not responsible for the appearance of any door not finished at our workshop. We believe that the overall quality of the finish is primarily and directly related to the quality of the prep-sanding process, and we recommend that onsite finishers follow the same process that we use below in our prefinished doors.

PREFINISHED DOORS

We believe that the final quality of the finish is directly related to and perhaps most importantly affected by the quality of the sanding prior to the first coating application. A bad finish can almost always be traced back to a combination of poor or non-existent hand sanding, poor finishing materials, and/or a poor work environment. Door components are belt sanded to 100 grit. Stain is applied by an HVLP spray gun, hand wiped with cloth, and air dried. A protective, top coat is then sprayed on all six sides of the door and allowed to air-dry. After drying, the entire door is fine-sanded by hand (180 or 220-grit) again to develop an ultra-smooth surface for the topcoat. The final topcoat is sprayed, which when dry provides a beautiful finish that not only protects against scratches, nicks and dents, but is impervious to both moisture and most household chemicals.

DOOR FINISH MAINTENANCE

All finished wood requires regular maintenance to keep the finish looking as new as possible. For interior doors and trim, dust regularly and periodically wipe with a damp, not wet, cloth to remove dirt and other particles and smudges. Furniture or other wood polish is not recommended as it will cause build-up on the finish. For exterior doors, the speed at which the finish will deteriorate is in direct response to the exposure of the door to direct sunlight, rain, and snow. At a minimum, Plexus Doors recommends that all of its exterior doors be inspected and wiped down every six months, in spring and fall, with a damp, not wet, cloth to remove dirt and other particles. Note any damage that has occurred. Have deep gouges professionally fixed. Grazes and scratches can be lightly sanded out, stained and top-coated.

<p>TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR YOUR DOOR:</p> <p>Stain: _____</p> <p>Top Coat: _____</p> <p>Hardware: _____</p> <p>Additional Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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