

SARTODOORS

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Interior Door Care Guide

How to Keep Your Doors Looking Their Best — For Years



Wood Veneer

Natural grain finish



Eco-Veneer (Film)

PVC / CPL wrap finish



Painted / Primed

Acrylic, gloss & primer finish

This guide covers everything you need to keep your SartoDoors interior doors looking showroom-perfect — from weekly cleaning routines to seasonal humidity checks. It covers all finish types: wood veneer, eco-veneer (film), acrylic painted, high-gloss, and glass inserts. Go directly to the section that applies to your doors.

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1. General Care Principles

These rules apply to all SartoDoors finishes regardless of which type you have. They form the foundation of long-term door care — ignore them and even the most durable finish will show premature wear.

1.1 The Indoor Door Rule

SartoDoors interior doors are engineered for controlled indoor environments. They are not rated for exterior use, garages, laundry rooms with open steam, or any space where humidity regularly exceeds 70%. Installing interior doors in high-moisture zones voids the warranty and causes delamination, swelling, and finish failure regardless of finish type.



Humidity: the #1 cause of interior door damage

Keep indoor relative humidity between 35% and 55% year-round.

In winter, use a humidifier in rooms where heating drives humidity below 30% — this is when veneer and solid-core doors crack or warp.

In summer, run air conditioning or a dehumidifier if humidity climbs above 60%.

Never place a diffuser, humidifier, flower vase, or fish tank directly next to a door.

1.2 Routine Cleaning — For All Finishes

A consistent, gentle cleaning routine prevents the buildup of grime that forces you into harsher cleaning later. This simple process takes under two minutes and should be done weekly in high-traffic areas.

- **Dust first.** Use a dry microfiber cloth or a soft feather duster. Always wipe with the grain (vertical strokes on most doors). Dust settles into texture grooves — never skip this step before wet-wiping.
- **Damp-wipe.** Lightly dampen a clean microfiber cloth with plain lukewarm water. Wring it until almost dry — the cloth should feel barely moist, not wet. Wipe the surface in gentle passes.
- **Dry immediately.** Follow with a dry microfiber cloth. Never leave water sitting on any door surface. Even briefly standing water can cause micro-lifting of finish edges.
- **Spot-clean smudges and fingerprints** with a small amount of diluted dish soap (one drop in a cup of water) on a microfiber cloth. Rinse the spot with a barely-damp clean cloth, then dry.



Never use these on any SartoDoors finish

Bleach, ammonia, or chlorine-based cleaners (Pine-Sol, Windex, Comet, Clorox wipes).

Abrasive pads, sponges with a scratchy side, steel wool, or scrub brushes.

Acetone, nail polish remover, paint thinner, or mineral spirits.

All-purpose spray cleaners (Lysol, 409, Fantastik) — these often contain solvents.

Steam cleaners or pressure washers.

Furniture polish containing silicone (Pledge) — leaves residue that attracts dust and can cloud finishes.

1.3 Hardware and Hinges

Door hardware is not part of the door finish but directly affects door performance and the surface around it.

- **Wipe handles, knobs, and hinges** with a dry or slightly damp cloth. Use a finish-matched metal cleaner for tarnish if needed, but keep the cleaner away from the door surface.
- **Lubricate hinges** annually with a dry PTFE lubricant or a light machine oil. Squeaky hinges create vibration stress on the door panel over time.
- **Check door alignment** every 6-12 months. A door that drags or binds at the frame is usually a hinge or settlement issue — do not sand or plane the door edge before checking hinge alignment.
- **Tighten loose hinge screws** immediately. A loose hinge causes the door to sag and drag, which scuffs the bottom edge and the frame.

2. Wood Veneer Finish

Wood veneer doors have a thin layer of real hardwood — typically 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm thick — bonded to an engineered core. The grain, texture, and warmth are genuine wood, which means they respond to their environment the way wood does: expanding in humidity, contracting in dry air, and absorbing stains if left unsealed or improperly cleaned.

2.1 What Makes Veneer Different

Unlike solid wood, veneer cannot be deeply sanded and re-finished without risk of sanding through the layer. The protective coating — whether lacquer, oil, or UV-cured polyurethane — is what separates the wood from the environment. When that coating is damaged, moisture gets in. Care for the coating first; care for the wood follows.



Understand your veneer before you clean it

Lacquered / UV-coated veneer (most common): has a clear hard film on the surface. Feels smooth. Repels moisture well.

Oiled veneer: feels slightly more matte, sometimes slightly warm to the touch. Needs re-oiling every 1-2 years.

Check your order confirmation or the door edge label for finish type.

2.2 Cleaning Wood Veneer

- **Daily / weekly:** dry microfiber cloth. Always wipe with the wood grain — cross-grain wiping can catch in texture and create micro-scratches.
- **Light soil / smudges:** barely-damp microfiber cloth with plain water. Dry immediately. This handles 90% of cleaning needs.
- **Stubborn grime or greasy marks:** a few drops of pH-neutral wood cleaner (Murphy Oil Soap diluted to 1/4 strength, or a product labeled safe for lacquered wood) on a damp cloth. Wipe, then rinse with a clean damp cloth, then dry.
- **Glass inserts (if present):** clean glass with a glass cleaner sprayed onto the cloth — never directly onto the door. Wipe glass only; keep cleaner away from the veneer border.

2.3 Moisture and Veneer

Water is veneer's most dangerous enemy — not because of the water itself, but because of what happens when it gets under the coating and reaches the wood layer.



Signs of moisture damage to catch early

White hazy rings or marks on the surface — trapped moisture under the coating.

Slight bubbling or lifting at edges or corners — delamination beginning.

Swelling at the bottom of the door — humidity infiltrating from the floor level.

Dark staining along grain lines — moisture has reached the wood.

If you catch these early, stop the moisture source first. A furniture conservator can sometimes reverse early-stage hazing.

- **Never wet-mop a floor right up to the door base** without immediately drying the door bottom. Use a floor protector or door sweep.
- **Never use a wet cloth on veneer.** Barely damp only. The cloth should not leave any standing water on the surface at any point.
- **If water is spilled on the door,** blot immediately with a dry cloth. Do not rub — rubbing spreads the water and can lift the finish edge.

 Wood Veneer <i>Lacquered or oiled natural hardwood face</i>	
✓ DO	✗ DO NOT
✓ Dust with dry microfiber, moving with the grain	✗ Use wet or soaked cloths on veneer surface
✓ Use barely-damp cloth for soil, dry immediately	✗ Wipe cross-grain — always go with the grain
✓ Use diluted pH-neutral wood cleaner for grime	✗ Use ammonia, bleach, or alcohol-based cleaners
✓ Re-oil oiled veneer every 1-2 years (product-specific)	✗ Apply furniture polish with silicone (Pledge, etc.)
✓ Keep humidity 35–55% year-round	✗ Sand veneer surfaces — the layer is thin
✓ Blot spills immediately, never rub	✗ Place humidifiers or vases directly adjacent
✓ Use door sweep at base to prevent floor moisture	✗ Leave water sitting on the surface, even briefly
✓ Clean glass inserts with cloth, not direct spray	✗ Use abrasive pads or scratchy sponges

2.4 Oiled Veneer Maintenance

If your doors have an oiled finish (this is specified in your order), the oil needs periodic replenishment as it depletes from cleaning and normal use. A properly maintained oil finish actually improves with time — an unmaintained one will look dry, dull, and eventually gray.

- **Re-oil frequency:** every 12-24 months in normal use, or when the surface appears dry or dull when viewed in raking light.
- **Product to use:** the same oil specified in your door documentation (typically a hard wax oil or specific wood oil). Do not substitute with linseed oil, olive oil, or cooking oils — these turn rancid and stain.
- **Application:** apply a thin coat with a lint-free cloth, rub in with the grain, let sit 15-20 minutes, then buff off all excess. Wipe with the grain throughout. Let cure 24 hours before normal use.
- **Patch repair:** small scratches in oiled veneer can be spot-oiled. Clean the area, apply a tiny amount of oil, buff. This often makes scratches nearly invisible.

3. Eco-Veneer (Film Wrap) Finish

Eco-veneer — also called PVC film, CPL (Continuous Pressure Laminate), or simply film wrap — is a textured decorative film applied to the door surface under heat and pressure. It accurately reproduces wood grain patterns, solid colors, and other textures. The result is a highly durable, non-porous surface that is far more moisture-resistant than real wood veneer.

3.1 What Makes Eco-Veneer Different

Because eco-veneer is non-porous, it does not absorb water or react to humidity the way wood does — a major practical advantage in kitchens, bathrooms, and homes with children. However, the film is mechanically bonded to the substrate, and that bond can be attacked by heat, harsh chemicals, or sharp impacts.



Key characteristics of film-wrap doors

Non-porous: does not absorb spills or cleaning agents if wiped promptly.

Heat-sensitive: high local heat (curling iron, steam from cooking, direct sunlight) can soften the adhesive and cause the film to lift at edges.

Chemical-sensitive: solvents will attack the film and leave permanent marks or cause blistering.

Impact-sensitive: sharp impacts chip the film differently than wood — chips are usually visible and do not sand smooth.

3.2 Cleaning Eco-Veneer

- **Regular cleaning:** dry or slightly damp microfiber cloth. Eco-veneer is the most forgiving finish to clean — most marks wipe off easily with plain water.
- **Dried food, crayon, or marker:** slightly dampen the cloth with a diluted mild soap solution (dish soap, 2-3 drops per cup of water). Wipe the mark, then follow with a clean damp cloth, then dry.
- **Permanent marker or ink:** a small amount of rubbing alcohol (isopropyl, 70%) on a cotton ball can remove ink. Use sparingly — blot the mark, do not rub. Test in an inconspicuous spot first. Do not use acetone.
- **Greasy fingerprints:** diluted dish soap on a damp cloth handles these easily. The non-porous surface releases oils without needing any solvent.
- **Textured surface grooves:** use a soft toothbrush or the corner of a microfiber cloth to dislodge grime from deep texture patterns. Always damp, never abrasive.

3.3 Heat and Film Edges

The most common and preventable eco-veneer failure is edge lifting caused by localized heat. Once an edge begins to lift, dust and moisture enter underneath, and the problem accelerates quickly.



Heat risks for film-wrap doors

Do not hang towels on film-wrap doors in bathrooms — the combination of damp towels and then hot air from a blow dryer is especially damaging.

Keep curling irons, flat irons, and hair dryers at least 12 inches from film-wrapped doors at all times.

Avoid mounting doors directly adjacent to cooking ranges, toasters, or other heat-producing appliances without a heat buffer.

Direct sustained sunlight through a glass panel can soften film adhesive over time — use window film or

shading on glass that projects onto the door surface.

If an edge begins to lift: do not pull it. Apply gentle pressure with a clean finger to push it back. If the bond has failed, use a thin bead of PVA wood glue applied with a toothpick under the edge, press firmly, and wipe away excess immediately. Let dry under light pressure (book, weight) for several hours.

 Eco-Veneer / Film Wrap <i>PVC film or CPL heat-bonded surface</i>	
✓ DO	✗ DO NOT
✓ Clean with dry or barely-damp microfiber cloth	✗ Use acetone, paint thinner, or solvent cleaners
✓ Use diluted dish soap for most marks and grease	✗ Apply steam or hot air near the surface
✓ Blot ink/marker with 70% isopropyl, then wipe clean	✗ Hang wet towels or damp items on the door
✓ Use a soft brush for deep-grain texture grooves	✗ Use abrasive sponges or pads on the film
✓ Keep heat sources at least 12" from the surface	✗ Pull or peel lifting edges — push back instead
✓ Press lifting edges back immediately, before dirt enters	✗ Use bleach or ammonia-based cleaners
✓ PVA glue under lifted edge if bond has released	✗ Leave the door in direct sustained sunlight
✓ Dry after any damp cleaning	✗ Use nail polish remover for any mark

4. Painted (Acrylic) and Primed Doors

SartoDoors painted doors use a professional acrylic coating system applied by spray in a controlled factory environment over a primed MDF core. Primed-only doors ship unfinished and require the customer to apply acrylic paint on-site before installation. Both types share the same care principles once the paint is applied.

4.1 About the Acrylic Finish

Factory acrylic coatings are water-based and cure to a hard, cleanable film. They offer excellent color retention, flexibility across humidity cycles, and compatibility with standard mild cleaning agents. The finish is available in multiple sheen levels — matte, satin, and semi-gloss — and the care approach varies slightly by sheen (detailed below).

4.2 Cleaning Painted Surfaces

- **Regular cleaning:** dry microfiber cloth for dust. A barely-damp cloth handles most smudges on acrylic without any soap.
- **Grime and fingerprints:** a diluted solution of mild dish soap (3-4 drops per cup of warm water) on a soft cloth. Wipe, rinse with a clean barely-damp cloth, then dry.
- **Scuffs from shoes, furniture, or belt buckles:** light scuffs often wipe away with a damp cloth on semi-gloss acrylic. If the scuff is embedded on semi-gloss, try a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser (melamine foam) very gently. Do not use on matte or satin finishes — the abrasion creates visible sheen differences.
- **Stickers or adhesive residue:** apply a small amount of vegetable oil or baby oil to the adhesive, let sit 2 minutes, then wipe with a damp cloth and mild soap. Avoid petroleum-based adhesive removers.
- **Crayons or wax:** remove bulk first with a plastic scraper (never metal). Then apply a small amount of white toothpaste (non-gel) with a soft cloth, wipe gently, rinse with damp cloth, dry.



Acrylic-painted and primed doors — moisture concerns

Painted MDF cores are significantly more moisture-sensitive than real wood. Water infiltrating through paint cracks causes rapid, irreversible swelling.

Keep bathroom doors with a gap at the bottom — never seal the door base to the floor with caulk in high-humidity rooms. Air must circulate.

If using a painted door in a bathroom, ensure the room has functioning exhaust ventilation.

Seal all four edges of primed doors before installation and painting. Unsealed edges absorb moisture from mopping and allow the core to swell from the inside.

4.3 Touch-Up Painting

Acrylic touch-ups are more forgiving than solvent-based coatings because water-based paints feather and blend better at edges. Even so, spray-applied factory finishes will show brush marks on close inspection. Manage expectations accordingly.

- **For small chips:** clean the area with a damp cloth, dry, then apply matching acrylic paint with a fine artist's brush in multiple thin coats.
- **For larger areas:** full panel re-painting gives the best result. Lightly sand (220 grit), wipe dust, apply a compatible acrylic primer coat, then two finish coats.

- **Sheen matching:** always match the sheen level. A satin touch-up on a matte panel is visible even with a perfect color match.

 Painted (Acrylic) & Primed <i>Factory acrylic spray finish or customer-applied acrylic paint</i>	
✓ DO	✗ DO NOT
✓ Clean with dry microfiber first, then damp if needed	✗ Use abrasive cleaners on any painted surface
✓ Use diluted mild dish soap for grime and fingerprints	✗ Apply bleach, ammonia, or solvent-based cleaners
✓ Blot spills immediately — especially on MDF cores	✗ Use Magic Eraser on matte or satin acrylic finishes
✓ Use Magic Eraser very gently on semi-gloss acrylic only	✗ Seal door bottoms to bathroom floors with caulk
✓ Seal all four edges of primed doors before painting	✗ Use petroleum-based adhesive removers
✓ Ensure bathroom exhaust ventilation is working	✗ Let water pool at the base or soak the door bottom
✓ Touch up with matching acrylic paint in thin coats	✗ Install primed-only doors without painting all edges first
✓ Keep a gap at the door bottom in humid rooms	✗ Hang wet items on painted doors

5. High-Gloss Finish

High-gloss doors feature a mirror-like lacquered or UV-cured acrylic surface with a reflectivity that approaches glass. The visual effect is dramatic, but the finish demands more attentive care than matte or satin surfaces — every fingerprint, watermark, and fine scratch is amplified by the sheen.

5.1 What Makes Gloss Different

	Gloss finish — key characteristics Highly reflective: shows fingerprints, dust, and micro-scratches far more visibly than matte or satin finishes. Hard but brittle: the surface film is harder than standard paint, which improves scratch resistance in normal use but means any scratch that does occur is immediately visible. Streak-sensitive: cleaning with the wrong cloth or technique leaves visible streaks. Technique matters more here than on any other finish. Static-attractive: the smooth surface can attract fine dust particles. More frequent light dusting is needed.
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5.2 Cleaning High-Gloss Surfaces

Gloss surfaces require clean, lint-free microfiber and a careful sequence. The wrong technique polishes in scratches rather than removing them.

- **Step 1 — Remove dust first:** use a clean, dry microfiber cloth in straight, light passes. Never use a paper towel, tissue, or cotton cloth — these are coarse enough to micro-scratch gloss under light pressure.
- **Step 2 — Damp-wipe:** lightly dampen a separate clean microfiber cloth with plain distilled water (tap water leaves mineral spots on gloss). Use straight, consistent strokes — do not use circular motions, which leave visible swirl marks.
- **Step 3 — Buff dry:** immediately follow with a third dry microfiber cloth using the same straight-stroke technique. Do not let water air-dry on gloss — watermarks are almost impossible to remove once dried in.
- **Fingerprints:** a microfiber cloth with a tiny amount of diluted dish soap (1 drop per cup of distilled water) removes fingerprint oils cleanly. Follow with a damp rinse cloth, then dry immediately.
- **Persistent smears:** a small amount of diluted white vinegar (1 part vinegar, 4 parts distilled water) on a microfiber cloth removes haze and smears effectively on gloss lacquer. Rinse with a plain damp cloth and dry.

	What damages gloss finishes Paper towels, tissues, or cotton cloths — all scratch gloss under normal wiping pressure. Circular wiping motions — create visible swirl marks in the finish. Tap water left to air-dry — mineral deposits etch into the surface. Any abrasive cleaner, including baking soda, powder cleaner, or scrub pads. Direct sunlight for extended periods — can yellow or cloud some gloss lacquer finishes over time. Silicone-based polishes — leave a residue film that looks good initially but clouds and attracts dust.
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 High-Gloss Finish <i>Mirror lacquer or UV-cured gloss acrylic</i>	
 DO	 DO NOT

✓ Use only clean, lint-free microfiber cloths	✗ Use paper towels, tissues, or cotton cloths
✓ Dust dry first before any damp cleaning	✗ Wipe in circular motions — causes swirl marks
✓ Use distilled water — tap water leaves mineral spots	✗ Let water or cleaning solution air-dry on the surface
✓ Wipe in straight strokes, never circular	✗ Use any abrasive cleaner or scrub pad
✓ Buff completely dry immediately after damp cleaning	✗ Apply silicone-based furniture polish or Pledge
✓ Diluted dish soap (1 drop per cup) for fingerprints	✗ Use solvent-based or ammonia-based cleaners
✓ Diluted white vinegar for smears and haze	✗ Leave in direct sustained sunlight
✓ Clean frequently — less buildup means less effort	✗ Use the same cloth for dusting and damp-wiping

6. Glass Insert Care

Many SartoDoors interior doors include decorative glass inserts — frosted, clear, mirror, or opaque black glass. Each type has different cleaning needs, and all share one critical rule: keep cleaning agents away from the joint between the glass and the door panel.



The joint between glass and door panel — critical warning

The seam where the glass meets the surrounding door panel (whether MDF, veneer, or film) is the most moisture-vulnerable point on any glazed door.

Never spray or pour liquid directly onto the door surface. Always apply cleaning solution to the cloth first, then wipe.

Never allow soapy water, glass cleaner, or any liquid to run into this joint. Even a small amount that seeps through the seal and reaches the MDF core will cause irreversible swelling — the door panel will bubble, and the glass may lose its seal.

When cleaning glass inserts, work from the center of the glass outward, stopping at least 1/2 inch (12 mm) from the panel edge. Then wipe the panel separately with its appropriate cleaner.

If you see water or cleaning solution at the joint after cleaning — blot it up immediately with a dry cloth.

6.1 Frosted Glass

Frosted glass (acid-etched or sandblasted) has a textured, matte surface that scatters light. The texture traps residue more easily than clear glass and requires gentler cleaning.

- **Routine cleaning:** a barely-damp microfiber cloth with plain water removes most dust and light soil. Wipe gently — the texture holds dirt loosely and releases it without scrubbing.
- **Smudges and fingerprints:** diluted mild dish soap on a damp microfiber cloth. Rinse with a clean damp cloth, pat dry. Do not rub hard — aggressive rubbing drives residue deeper into the texture.
- **Never use:** abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or anything that scratches — the frost texture is a surface treatment and cannot be restored once abraded.
- **Streaks on frosted glass:** are rare because the texture diffuses light, but if soap residue is visible after drying, wipe gently with a plain damp cloth to remove the residue.

6.2 Clear Glass

Clear glass panels show every smudge, water spot, and streak immediately. The approach here prioritizes streak-free results.

- **Best technique:** spray glass cleaner (Windex or equivalent) onto a clean microfiber cloth — never directly onto the glass, as overspray will reach the joint. Wipe in straight overlapping strokes.
- **Mineral spots and hard water deposits:** a solution of 50% white vinegar and 50% distilled water on a microfiber cloth removes mineral deposits effectively. Apply, let sit 30-60 seconds, wipe, and dry.
- **Dry immediately:** use a second dry microfiber cloth or a lint-free chamois to buff dry before the cleaning solution air-dries and leaves streaks.

6.3 Mirror Glass

Mirror glass inserts have a reflective silver or aluminum backing that is protected by a paint layer on the rear face. The mirror surface itself is the front face and is cleaned like clear glass, but with additional caution about the edges.

- **Clean the front face:** same method as clear glass — glass cleaner applied to the cloth, straight strokes, buff dry.
- **Never wet the edges or back:** moisture reaching the mirror backing through the edge will cause black edge spots (mirror rot) — a permanent oxidation of the silver layer. Keep the edges dry.
- **Never use ammonia-based cleaners on mirror:** over time, ammonia attacks the silver backing through micro-pores in the edge seal. Use ammonia-free glass cleaner for mirror inserts.

6.4 Opaque Black Glass

Opaque black glass (also called lacquered glass or back-painted glass) is a clear glass panel with an opaque coating on the rear face. The front surface is smooth and glass-like; the back coating is more delicate.

- **Front face cleaning:** same as clear glass. Glass cleaner on cloth, straight strokes, dry immediately. The glossy black surface shows fingerprints prominently — wipe after each use in high-traffic locations.
- **Never clean the back face:** the opaque coating on the rear is not designed for cleaning or contact. It faces the door panel interior and should never be accessible. If the panel is ever removed, handle it by the edges only.
- **Avoid ammonia on opaque black glass:** ammonia-based cleaners can cause hazing or discoloration of the back coating if they work around the edge. Use ammonia-free glass cleaner.

 Glass Inserts (All Types) <i>Frosted, clear, mirror, or opaque black glass</i>	
✓ DO	✗ DO NOT
✓ Apply all cleaners to the cloth first — never spray at the door	✗ Spray liquid directly onto the door — always onto the cloth
✓ Work from center of glass outward, stop 1/2 inch from edge	✗ Allow liquid to run into the glass-to-panel joint
✓ Blot any moisture at the glass-to-panel joint immediately	✗ Use ammonia-based cleaners on mirror or opaque black glass
✓ Use microfiber cloths only — never paper towels on glass	✗ Scrub frosted glass with abrasive pads or rough cloths
✓ Buff dry before solution air-dries (prevents streaks and spots)	✗ Wet the edges or back face of mirror panels
✓ Use ammonia-free cleaner for mirror and black glass	✗ Use the same cloth for glass and panel surfaces
✓ White vinegar solution for mineral deposits on clear glass	✗ Let cleaning solution air-dry — always buff dry immediately
✓ Wipe panel area separately with its own appropriate cleaner	✗ Use paper towels — lint and wood pulp micro-scratch glass

7. Indoor Use Only — No Exceptions



SartoDoors interior doors are designed exclusively for interior use

Any direct contact with outdoor conditions will cause irreversible damage and immediately voids the product warranty.

Exterior installation: UV radiation, rain, freezing temperatures, and outdoor humidity will delaminate veneer and film finishes, swell MDF cores, crack paint, and cause glass seals to fail. This is not a gradual process — visible damage typically occurs within weeks.

Doors adjacent to exterior entries (mudrooms, covered porches): if the door faces an unheated, uninsulated space — or if outdoor air, rain splash, or frost can reach it — it is not in an interior environment and is not suitable for this product.

Garage installation: garages are not conditioned interior spaces. Temperature swings, vehicle exhaust humidity, and concrete floor moisture make garages incompatible with interior door products regardless of finish type.

Entry door replacement: SartoDoors doors must not be used as exterior entry doors. They have no weatherstripping rated for exterior exposure, no insulated core, and no structural rating for wind or impact loads.

Even within an interior installation, keep the following in mind:

- **Exterior-adjacent wall doors:** if a door is mounted in a wall that faces the outside (e.g., a door to a cold basement stairwell, an unheated utility closet, or a door directly beside an exterior entry), condensation forms on the door surface in cold weather as warm interior air meets the cold wall. Wipe condensation promptly and ensure the wall is adequately insulated.
- **Direct sunlight through windows:** UV radiation from windows that projects directly onto the door surface fades all finishes over time. Use window film, blinds, or shading to limit sustained direct sun exposure on door surfaces.
- **HVAC vents:** avoid installing doors directly in the path of heating or cooling vents. Extreme localized temperature and humidity cycling causes finish cracking and dimensional instability in the door core.

8. Room-by-Room Guidance

The right care routine depends as much on where the door is installed as what finish it has. Here are the most common situations and what to watch for in each.

5.1 Bathrooms



Bathrooms: the highest-risk environment

Steam from showers temporarily raises local humidity to 90–100%. This is the most aggressive environment for any interior door.

Keep the bathroom exhaust fan running during showers and for 15 minutes after. If no fan exists, open a window.

Leave the bathroom door slightly ajar after showering to let moisture escape — closing it traps steam against the door surface.

Wipe condensation off the door surface with a dry towel after each shower. This is a 10-second habit that dramatically extends door life.

Consider a painted (acrylic) or eco-veneer door for bathrooms rather than wood veneer. If you have wood veneer in a bathroom, re-seal exposed edges annually with a compatible clear varnish.

5.2 Kitchens

Grease is the main kitchen challenge — it accumulates in a thin invisible film on door surfaces near ranges and can be mistaken for normal discoloration until it has built up significantly.

- **Clean kitchen-adjacent doors monthly** with a diluted dish soap solution rather than just water — dish soap is specifically formulated to cut grease.
- **The back of a kitchen door** (facing into the kitchen) accumulates far more grease than the hall-facing side. Do not neglect it.
- **Do not install wood veneer doors** directly adjacent to a range without a ventilation hood above the range. Grease-laden steam discolors and penetrates veneer finishes.

5.3 Children's Rooms and Playrooms

Doors in children's spaces deal with crayon, marker, stickers, scuffs from toys and furniture, and the occasional projectile impact.

- **Eco-veneer doors** are the recommended choice for children's rooms — they are the most damage-resistant and easiest to clean.
- **Crayon and most markers** come off eco-veneer and enamel with a slightly damp cloth and a small amount of dish soap. Attack while fresh — dried crayon is harder to remove.
- **Sticker management:** remove stickers as soon as possible. The longer the adhesive contacts the finish, the more residue it leaves. Use the oil method (Section 4.2) for stubborn residue.
- **Scuffs at handle height** are the most common wear point in children's rooms. Consider a handle that minimizes push-plate contact, and wipe this area weekly.

5.4 Home Offices and Living Spaces

Low-risk environments, but a few specific concerns apply.

- **Sunlight exposure:** sustained direct sunlight fades all interior finishes over time. Wood veneer may lighten unevenly. Film-wrap adhesive can soften. Use window film or shading to limit direct UV exposure to doors.
- **Candles and incense:** soot from candles deposits a very fine black film on door surfaces, especially around air currents and door gaps. Regular dry-dusting removes this before it becomes difficult.
- **HVAC vents:** avoid mounting doors directly in the path of heating or cooling vents, which cause extreme localized humidity swings and temperature cycling.

9. Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

Interior doors need attention at seasonal transitions — this is when conditions change most dramatically and when early problems are easiest to catch.

Season	What to Check and Do
Fall	Turn on humidifiers before heating season starts. Check door edges for any gap widening from summer expansion. Inspect veneer or paint edges for any lifting caused by summer humidity. Lubricate hinges before the heating season.
Winter	Monitor indoor humidity with a hygrometer — heating systems can drop humidity below 30%, which shrinks wood cores and cracks finishes. Watch for gap changes between door and frame. Wipe down doors near exterior entries where cold air creates condensation.
Spring	Transition from humidifier to dehumidifier as outdoor humidity rises. Check and tighten loose hinge screws after any winter settlement. Full clean of all door surfaces — grime builds up over winter from reduced ventilation.
Summer	Run dehumidifiers or A/C if indoor humidity exceeds 60%. Check bathroom and kitchen doors for any signs of swelling or finish lifting. Wipe eco-veneer door edges if any outdoor condensation has reached them.

10. Troubleshooting Common Issues

Most door problems develop gradually and are easier to address when caught early. Here are the most frequent issues and what to do.

Issue	Likely Cause	What to Do
White rings or haze on veneer	Moisture trapped under the coating	Apply a small amount of petroleum jelly, let sit 1 hour, buff gently with a soft cloth. For persistent hazing, consult a wood care professional.
Film edge lifting	Heat, moisture, or impact near the edge	Press edge back with finger. If un-bonded, use PVA glue under the edge. Do not pull.
Paint peeling at door base	Moisture wicking from floor through unsealed bottom edge	Stop the moisture source. Re-seal the base with a clear varnish or appropriate primer. Repaint when dry.
Door swelling and binding	Humidity too high, or water contact at bottom/edges	Reduce room humidity. If the door has swollen significantly, a minor plane of the hinge-side edge may be needed — consult your installer.
Surface scratches on veneer	Normal wear or abrasive contact	On oiled veneer: spot-oil the area. On UV-coated veneer: fine scratches may buff out with a very fine polishing compound (test first). Deep scratches may need professional touch-up.
Stain or discoloration on film	Chemical contact, solvent use, or prolonged sun exposure	If solvent-caused, the damage is permanent. Sun fade: uniformly re-film is the only correction. Stains: try diluted dish soap; if ineffective, the stain is within the film layer.

Crayon on acrylic paint	Direct contact with wax crayon	Plastic scraper for bulk. White non-gel toothpaste on a cloth for the remainder. Rinse, dry.
Swirl marks on gloss finish	Circular wiping motion or rough cloth	Buff gently with a clean lint-free microfiber using straight strokes. In severe cases, a fine auto-polish compound (test first) may reduce visibility.
Glass insert clouding at edges	Moisture seeping into glass-to-panel joint	Ensure the joint is dry. Re-seal with clear neutral-cure silicone if the factory seal has failed. Do not apply water or cleaner to the joint.
Black spots at mirror edges	Mirror rot — moisture reached silver backing	Mirror rot is irreversible. The glass panel requires replacement. Prevent by keeping edges dry and using ammonia-free cleaners.
Door rattles in frame	Hinge wear or strike plate misalignment	Adjust strike plate position. Replace worn hinge with matching hardware. Do not modify the door panel.

11. Warranty and Support



SartoDoors Limited Warranty — Care-Related Notes

The SartoDoors warranty covers manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship.

Damage resulting from improper cleaning, chemical exposure, moisture from improper installation, or failure to maintain appropriate indoor humidity is not covered.

Installing interior doors in bathrooms without adequate ventilation, or in exterior-adjacent locations, may void the warranty.

Primed doors shipped unfinished must be painted with acrylic paint on all six surfaces (including all four edges) before installation. Warranty claims arising from moisture damage on unfinished edges will not be accepted.

Keep your purchase documentation and order number. Some claims require proof of purchase and the specific product model.

11.1 When to Call SartoDoors

Most care and maintenance issues described in this guide can be handled without professional assistance. Contact SartoDoors customer support when:

- **A finish defect appears within the first 12 months that is not related to cleaning or installation error — this may be a manufacturing claim.**
- **You are unsure whether a problem is a warranty issue or normal wear.**
- **You need a matching touch-up paint or film color reference for a specific door model.**
- **You need guidance on whether a product or cleaner is safe for your specific door finish.**

Quick Reference

Safe for all SartoDoors finishes

- ✓ Dry microfiber cloth — always safe, always first
- ✓ Barely-damp microfiber with plain lukewarm water
- ✓ Diluted mild dish soap (3-4 drops per cup of water)
- ✓ pH-neutral wood cleaner diluted to 1/4 strength (veneer only)
- ✓ 70% isopropyl alcohol, applied sparingly, blotted not rubbed (film only — test first)
- ✓ Ammonia-free glass cleaner applied to cloth (never sprayed at the door) — for glass inserts only

Never use on any finish

- ✗ Bleach, ammonia, or chlorine cleaners
- ✗ Acetone, paint thinner, mineral spirits
- ✗ All-purpose spray cleaners (Lysol, 409, Windex)
- ✗ Silicone furniture polish (Pledge)
- ✗ Abrasive sponges, steel wool, or scrub pads
- ✗ Steam cleaners

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