

Use and Care Manual: Interior and Exterior Doors — United Porte

This manual provides important information on maintaining the beauty and functionality of your interior and exterior doors for many years to come. Following these recommendations will ensure your doors operate smoothly and look their best while maximizing their lifespan.

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Understanding Your Door

The first step to proper care is understanding the type of door you have. Here's a breakdown of common door materials:

- Wood Doors:** Offer a classic and elegant look but require more maintenance.
- Fiberglass Doors:** Durable, weather-resistant, and require minimal upkeep.
- Steel Doors:** Strong, secure, and affordable, but prone to dents and scratches.

General Care and Cleaning

- Regular Dusting:** Use a soft, dry microfiber cloth to remove dust and cobwebs from the door surface and frame.
- Cleaning Doors:** For light dirt and fingerprints, use a damp microfiber cloth with warm soapy water. Dry thoroughly with a clean, dry microfiber cloth.
- Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Avoid using abrasive cleaners, ammonia, or strong solvents, which can damage the door's finish.

Specific Care Based on Door Material

- Wood Doors:**
 - Refinishing:** Depending on the finish, wood doors may require periodic refinishing (staining or painting) to maintain their appearance and protect against moisture. Consult a professional for refinishing every 3-5 years.
 - Humidity Control:** Maintain consistent humidity levels (30-50%) to prevent warping and cracking.
- Fiberglass Doors:**
 - Mild Detergent:** For tougher grime, use a mild detergent solution and a soft brush. Rinse thoroughly and dry completely.
 - Waxing (Optional):** Applying a coat of car wax periodically can enhance the shine and protect the surface.
- Steel Doors:**
 - Vacuuming:** Use the soft brush attachment of your vacuum cleaner to remove dust and cobwebs from crevices.
 - Scratch Removal:** For minor scratches, use a touch-up paint specifically designed for metal doors to prevent rust.

Maintaining Door Hardware

- Lubricate Hinges:** Every few months, apply a light coat of silicone spray or petroleum jelly to the hinge pins to ensure smooth operation.

- Tighten Screws:** Periodically check and tighten loose screws on hinges, handles, and doorknobs.
- Clean Knobs and Handles:** Use a damp cloth with warm soapy water to clean door knobs and handles. Dry thoroughly with a clean cloth.

Troubleshooting Common Door Problems

- Sticking Door:** This could be due to loose hinges, warped door frame, or swelling due to moisture. Check for loose screws, ensure the door is properly aligned with the frame, and maintain proper humidity levels. If the problem persists, consult a professional.
- Squeaky Hinges:** Apply lubricant to the hinge pins.
- Drafty Door:** Weatherstripping around the door frame may be worn or damaged. Replace weatherstripping to improve insulation.

Warranty Information

Refer to the warranty information provided with your door purchase for specific details regarding coverage and care instructions.

Additional Tips

- Avoid slamming doors to prevent damage to the hinges and frame.
- Don't hang heavy objects on the door to prevent warping.
- For extensive cleaning or repairs, consult a qualified door specialist.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure your interior and exterior doors remain beautiful, functional, and provide lasting value for your home.