



Read all instructions thoroughly before beginning. This document is a guideline for painting and finishing exterior and interior doors. JELD-WEN cannot evaluate all available paints, stains, or application requirements. Consult a paint professional or a local paint department/store for coatings best suited to the project. Select top-quality finishes and follow all manufacturers' instructions.

Finish all six surfaces (sides and edges) of the door slab, including cutouts for hardware. **EXCEPTIONS** to this rule include removing hinges, other hardware or sweep weatherstripping (along the bottom edge of the slab) installed by the factory. Additionally, ensure both ends of the sweep weatherstripping are sealed with silicone after finishing. Failure to finish the door slab and frame as instructed may result in the denial of warranty claims.

⚠ CAUTION

Interior doors should not be installed into or exposed to exterior elements. If installed into a high-humidity environment, we require all six sides to be finished and regularly inspected with adequate ventilation and/or exhaust. Failure to comply with either of the above scenarios could result in the denial of any warranty claims.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION | MATERIALS AND TOOLS

Important Information

- **JELD-WEN** does not warrant the performance or appearance of field-applied finish products, such as primer, paint, stains, lacquer or clear coats.
- Steel and fiberglass door slabs **MUST** be finished within thirty (30) days of purchase.
- Factory-primed wood doors (molded, flush, premium composite, stile and rail) **MUST** be finished within fourteen (14) days of purchase.
- Raw, un-primed wood doors (molded, flush, stile and rail) **MUST** be finished within seven (7) days of purchase.
- Finish wood frames in the same manner as the slab.
- Vinyl components **DO NOT** require finishing.
- Refinish products when the finish cracks, splits or becomes dull.

⚠ WARNING

This product can expose you to styrene and wood dust. Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

Materials And Tools

When preparing to finish doors, consider the materials and tools required for the entire project. Listed below are some common items needed to finish doors properly. Not all materials and tools will be required for every job.

Needed Materials and Tools:

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| • Safety glasses and rubber gloves | • Sprayer | • Clean rags |
| • Screwdrivers | • Denatured alcohol | • Cheesecloth |
| • Silicone (for exterior slabs with a sweep) | • Woodblock | • Polyurethane |
| • Power drill | • Masking tape | • Paint or stain (see instructions for each door type for specific recommendations) |
| • Hammer | • Sandpaper - 150 grit or finer (Steel and Smooth-Pro Fiberglass Doors) | • Paint thinner or mineral spirits (for clean-up) |
| • Punch | • Sandpaper - 400 grit (Authentic Wood Doors) | • Tack cloth |
| • Utility knife | • Pre-stain conditioner if staining wood | • 0000 Steel wool |
| • Plastic putty knife | | |
| • Hand block sander | | |
| • Foam brush | | |
| • Paintbrush | | |

BASIC FINISHING RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHOOSING FINISHING MATERIALS

Basic Finishing Recommendations

- Wear safety glasses for eye protection and rubber gloves to prevent soiling the door with oil from hands.
- Allow doors to acclimate to local conditions for at least 24 hours before finishing.
- Finish in a dust-free area away from direct sunlight.
- Remove all hardware (except hinges from an interior door slab) and mask off the glass, weatherstrip, and door sweep (on the bottom of exterior slabs).
- Finishing is easier if the slab is in a horizontal, flat position on a padded surface. Horizontal position is not required and the slab may be finished in any position. However, **DO NOT** stand an exterior slab on the sweep (the weatherstrip on the bottom of the door) as damage may result.
- If finishing an exterior slab, seal both ends of the sweep (weatherstrip on the bottom) with an exterior-grade silicone.
- If finishing a slab with a glass insert, inspect for sealant squeeze out onto the glass or door. Carefully score excess sealant (**DO NOT** scratch glass) with a utility knife (stainless steel blade) and remove with a plastic putty knife.
- If finishing a slab with a glass insert, follow the glass manufacturer's instructions on the glass insert frame label.
- The door must be clean and dry before finishing.
- Test your finish prior to application in a discreet location.
- Apply finish materials in multiple light coats instead of fewer heavy coats.
- If painting grained or textured doors, too many coats will diminish the wood grain texture.

Choose Finishing Materials

- If the door is exposed to direct sunlight, dark-colored finishes may fade or deteriorate quickly and increase maintenance. See our Appropriate Protection document at www.jeld-wen.com.
- Use a good quality primer and paint, or wood sealer and stain. We recommend using one manufacturer's products to ensure compatibility. Follow all manufacturer's application instructions.
- If choosing an oil or solvent-based paint, consult with a paint professional on the best product (usually quick drying) for the job.
- For the best results when staining fiberglass doors, we recommend using professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain. **NOTE: Once Architectural fiberglass doors are stained, it is very difficult to change the color. Always test the color in an inconspicuous area to determine if the color is acceptable before staining the entire door.**
- Use only exterior solid color stains on wood surfaces exposed to sunlight. Their high concentration of pigments protects the wood against damage. The natural wood color and grain are obstructed, but the wood texture is retained. These stains provide minimum protection against water or dirt protection, so a polyurethane topcoat must be used.
- Finish with coatings that are resistant to water, wear, heat, solvents and chemicals. Without these characteristics, the finished product may deteriorate, compromising its integrity.
- Use a topcoat containing UV inhibitor. Use exterior finishing products on all exterior and interior surfaces still exposed to sunlight to provide extra protection and durability.

PREPARE THE DOOR

If refinishing a previously finished door slab, use the following recommendations for the product you have. The achieved result will depend on the skill of the person doing the refinishing. We recommend seeking the help of a skilled professional if unsure. After preparing the previous finish, follow the finishing instructions in the following sections.

	DOORS THAT WERE PAINTED	DOORS THAT WERE STAINED
Steel and Smooth-Pro Fiberglass	1. Scuff sand with 150 grit sandpaper or finer or buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even. Feather out areas where the previous finish is cracked or peeling by removing all loose material and sanding outward until the surface is uniformly level. 2. Remove all loose debris with a tack cloth (available in-store paint sections) and re-prime bare areas with a good quality water-based primer appropriate for the substrate. Re-priming the entire door will provide the best surface for the new topcoat.	N/A
Wood (Authentic Wood, Premium Composite and Molded)	1. Scuff sand with 400 grit sandpaper or buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even. Feather out areas where the previous finish is cracked or peeling by removing all loose material and sanding outward until the surface is uniformly level. 2. Remove all loose debris with a tack cloth (available in-store paint sections) and re-prime bare areas with a good quality water-based primer appropriate for the substrate. Re-priming the entire door will provide the best surface for the new topcoat. 3. Previously stained doors will need to be stripped and/or sanded to bare wood before being re-stained and top-coated or painted.	
Architectural and Design-Pro Fiberglass	1. DO NOT attempt to remove the finish with paint stripper, solvents or other chemicals. Instead, buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even. 2. Remove all loose debris with tack cloth (available in-store paint sections). 3. Previously stained doors can be re-top coated with a clear finish or painted if a color change is desired.	

Previously Unfinished Products

- If the door slab has a glass insert, install the provided screw covers over the screw heads around the glass insert.
- Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning, use denatured alcohol, making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.

NOTICE

Do not use sandpaper or lacquer thinner on Architectural or Design/Smooth-Pro fiberglass doors.

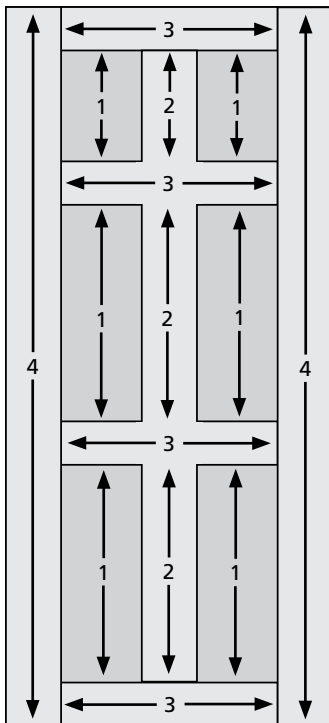
For Wood Doors Only:

- Before applying the first finishing coat, lightly block sand with the grain on all surfaces by hand with 400 grit sandpaper. Remove all handling marks, raise grain, scuffs, burnishes and other undesirable blemishes. For doors with wood veneers, veneers are very thin and it can be easy to sand through the veneer. **DO NOT** sand veneers any more than necessary.
- Stile and rail doors have wood panels that can float. If necessary, adjust panels before finishing by carefully realigning with a wood block and hammer.

FINISH THE DOOR

Finish the Door

Use the table below to find your product and desired finish and follow the instructions in the corresponding box. The illustration to the right shows the recommended order to apply finishing materials to the door by any method except spraying. Finishing materials should be first applied, in the direction of the arrows, to the door panels (1), then to the vertical members, or stiles (2), horizontal members, or rails (3) and finally to the outer stiles (4). This method has been tested to yield the best results. You may, however, use any method that you choose.



	DOORS TO BE PAINTED	DOORS TO BE STAINED
Wood (Authentic Wood, Premium Composite and Molded)	- Before applying first finishing coat, lightly block sand with the grain on all surfaces by hand with 400 grit sandpaper. Remove all handling marks, raise grain, scuffs, burnishes and other undesirable blemishes. - Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning, use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. - Seal un-primed door slabs with good quality water-based primers. - Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended).	- Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. - For un-primed units to be stained, we recommend applying a pre-stain wood conditioner prior to staining to promote a uniform appearance and avoid sharp color contrasts or a blotchy appearance. - To add color after pre-stain conditioner, use an exterior oil-based stain for the next coat. - Topcoats may be an oil-based or water-based clear polyurethane finish. A marine-grade varnish is recommended on all exterior doors (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended).

FINISH THE DOOR (CONTINUED)

	DOORS TO BE PAINTED	DOORS TO BE STAINED
Steel	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning use denatured alcohol and make sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. 2. Lightly scuff and sand the door face and back (to improve "paint adhesion") and wipe the door clean with denatured alcohol. If the door jamb and molding are primed, clean with a damp cloth and allow them to dry. Lightly sand any rough areas and re-clean. 3. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended).	N/A
Grained Fiberglass (Design-Pro)	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris with denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON DESIGN-PRO FIBERGLASS DOORS. 2. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended).	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. 2. We recommend using a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain for the best results. Apply an even amount of stain with a foam brush or lint-free cloth in the direction of the wood grain. 3. Work the stain into the surface grain using a circular or cross-grain motion before finally wiping the stain in the direction of the grain. For best results, apply stain to one section of the door at a time, starting with the embossed panels first and proceeding with the flat areas. 4. Before the stain dries completely, wipe the surface in the direction of the grain with a clean cheesecloth or rag to remove any excess stain. TIP: Use a dry, soft natural bristle brush to feather out lap marks and blend stain. Blot brush on a dry cloth and feather stain until desired color is reached. 5. If a darker appearance is desired, apply a second coat after the first coat dries. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply and wipe the stain with a brush or rag. After one side is stained and has completely dried, repeat the staining process on the remaining unstained sides of the door. 6. Allow the stain to dry per manufacturer's recommendations (may take up to 48 hours). Spray on at least one coat of clear exterior-grade polyurethane. THE FIRST COAT MUST BE SPRAYED ON. Additional coats may be sprayed or brushed on (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended). Repeat process on the remaining unfinished sides of the door.

FINISH THE DOOR (CONTINUED)

	DOORS TO BE PAINTED	DOORS TO BE STAINED
Smooth Fiberglass (Smooth-Pro)	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris with denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON SMOOTH-PRO FIBERGLASS DOORS. 2. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended)..	N/A
Architectural Fiberglass	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON ARCHITECTURAL FIBERGLASS DOORS. 2. Prime the door slab with a good quality water-based primer. 3. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended).	1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For cleaning use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. 2. For the best results, we recommend using a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain. Apply an even amount of stain with a foam brush or lint-free cloth in the direction of the wood grain. 3. Work the stain into the surface grain using a circular or cross-grain motion before finally wiping the stain in the direction of the grain. For best results, apply stain to one section of the door at a time, starting with the embossed panels first and proceeding with the flat sections. 4. Before stain dries completely, wipe the surface in the direction of the grain with a clean cheesecloth or rag to remove any excess stain. TIP: Use a dry, soft natural bristle brush to feather out lap marks and blend stain. Blot brush on a dry cloth and feather stain until desired color is reached. 5. If a darker appearance is desired, apply a second coat after the first coat dries. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply and wipe the stain with a brush or rag. After one side is stained and has completely dried, repeat staining process on the remaining unstained sides of the door. 6. Allow stain to dry per manufacturer's recommendations (may take up to 48 hours). Spray on at least one coat of clear exterior grade polyurethane. THE FIRST COAT MUST BE SPRAYED ON. Additional coats may be sprayed or brushed on (sanding between coats and wiping down with a tack cloth recommended). Repeat process on the remaining unfinished sides of the door.