



## Door Care & Finishing Guidelines

### **1. Storage Conditions**

Keep doors stored flat in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated space. Avoid placing them directly on concrete or propping them upright against walls, as this can lead to warping or moisture absorption.

### **2. Acclimation Period**

Before any finishing is done, allow the doors to adjust to the ambient indoor temperature and humidity. This helps the doors reach a stable moisture level consistent with their final environment.

### **3. Surface Preparation**

Doors may arrive with handling marks or surface imperfections. Sand all surfaces evenly with fine 180–220 grit sandpaper or sanding sponges to remove raised grain and blemishes. Spot-prime any bare areas as needed. Be careful not to sand through any factory-applied primer.

### **4. Sealing All Sides**

To ensure long-term durability, all surfaces—including edges, top and bottom rails, hardware cutouts, and light/louver openings—must be fully sealed prior to applying finish coats.

### **5. Paint Type and Application**

Factory-primed doors work best with water-based acrylic latex paints. Follow your paint manufacturer's recommendations closely. Apply a minimum of two coats to all six sides. Avoid finishing in high humidity or poor ventilation, as this can affect drying and may lead to surface swelling or fiber raising.

### **6. Between Coats**

Ensure each coat is fully dry and smooth before applying the next. If needed, lightly sand between coats to maintain an even finish.

### **7. Painting Environment**

Doors should be painted in a dry, temperature-controlled space per the paint manufacturer's recommendations. When painting, stand the doors vertically or hang them to maintain even support. Do not lean them at an angle or lay them flat on uneven surfaces, as this can cause distortion.

### **8. Test First**

Before painting an entire batch, finish one door completely and inspect for quality. If any issues are observed, contact ETO-Doors immediately for guidance before proceeding with the rest.



## Ongoing Door Maintenance

### **1. Inspect and Maintain Finish Regularly**

Exterior door finishes naturally wear down over time due to exposure to sun, rain, and humidity. We recommend inspecting your door's finish at least **once a year**. If the coating appears dull, cracked, or uneven, **refinish immediately** to maintain the door's protection and appearance. In areas with intense sun or moisture, more frequent refinishing may be necessary.

### **2. Check Door Operation and Hardware**

Make sure your door continues to **swing smoothly without sticking or scraping**. Lubricate hinges and moving parts as needed to prevent squeaks or resistance. Tighten any loose screws or hardware components.

### **3. Clean Surfaces Seasonally**

Wipe down the door's surface with a damp, non-abrasive cloth every few months to remove dust, pollen, or environmental buildup. Avoid harsh chemicals that may degrade the finish.

### **4. Monitor for Warping or Moisture Issues**

Keep an eye out for swelling, warping, or signs of water infiltration—especially near the bottom rail and edges. Promptly address any signs of damage to prevent long-term issues.

### **5. Seasonal Adjustments**

Due to natural expansion and contraction of wood, minor adjustments to hinges or latches may be needed with changes in humidity and temperature.