

HOW TO FINISH WOOD DOORS

These steps are a basic overview. Please see stain manufacturer's instructions for more details and safety precautions. We cannot evaluate all possible stain and finish applications for all areas. Contact a local paint dealer for systems best suited for your geographic region.

1. Prepare Door

- Start with an unfinished door that is clean and dry.
- Fully sand door on all sides with #220-grit sandpaper in direction of the wood grain. Remove sanding dust.
- Depending on the stain and type of wood, a pre-stain wood conditioner or sanding sealer may be required for a more uniform appearance.

2. Stain Door

- Only use a high quality stain made for wood doors and furniture, such as Minwax®.
Deck or fence stain will not give a quality finish or protect a wood door.
- Test stain on a hidden spot of door to make sure you like the color.
- Stir stain well before and occasionally while staining. Do not shake or thin stain.
- Wipe away excess stain, working along wood grain to blend lighter and darker areas together. The longer you wait, the darker and richer the color will be.
- To darken color, apply another coat. Do not sand between coats. When you are happy with the color, let the stain dry completely before applying a protective topcoat.

3. Protect Door Finish

- Apply a clear protective topcoat such as Polyurethane or Polyacrylic. Spar Urethane has proved to be an excellent choice.
- ***To be protected, door must be fully encapsulated on all 6-sides by stain and topcoat, so moisture does not make contact inside or out.***

4. Maintain Door Finish

- Inspect your door periodically. If the topcoat has been damaged or is showing signs of deterioration, an additional application of top coat will need to be applied.
- Depending on the environment, the door unit will need to be refinished periodically.