

Steel Door Finishing Instructions



UltraEntry Door

It is very important to either paint or stain all door surfaces to validate our warranty. This should be done immediately after installation. While your door is manufactured and shipped with a high quality PRIMER coat that requires NO special preparation before finish painting or staining. The PRIMER COAT IS NOT intended to be the FINISH COAT. You can also choose to have your door factory finished or stained.

If you choose to PAINT ONE SIDE AND STAIN THE OTHER, we recommend that you begin by PAINTING FIRST.

BEFORE YOU PAINT OR STAIN Remove Frame-Work

Pre-hung doors should be removed from their frame work. Your door uses a two-piece hinge connected by a hinge pin.

Using a center punch and hammer, strike the hinge pins from the underneath side until they pop up on the top side. Drive them up as far as you can with the punch.

Using a pair of pliers grasp the top of the hinge pin. While twisting the pin clockwise and counterclockwise, pull the hinge pin out.

Repeat this process for all three hinges.

Remove Hardware

All hardware from the door should be removed before you paint or stain. Simply remove screw fasteners and detach.

Prepare Work Area

Find a well-lit spot that is dust-free with a comfortable temperature. The area should be large enough to get around in easily.

Have at least two sawhorses or a solid table, near waist height, to work on.

Set Up Door

Install 2 wood screws into each end of door. Pre-drill if needed. Hang door flat between saw horses resting on screw heads. This would allow both sides to dry. (Figure A)

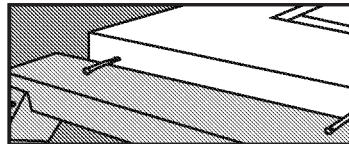


Figure A

Clean Door Surface

Examine the door for possible smudges or finger marks made from normal handling. Dry wipe dust from doors gently. Remove smudges with warm soapy water. Rub lightly so as not to damage stainable coating. (Do not use glass cleaner - some may contain solvents that may damage the coating.)

Let the door dry completely. Normally, this will take around twenty minutes but it can vary depending on temperature and humidity.

Cover Areas Not To Be Stained or Painted

Using masking tape, cover any area not to be stained or painted. (Such as windows, locks, etc.)

NOTE: Mask edges of door if one side of the door will be stained and the other side painted.

No Storm Door Needed

Use of DARK COLORS & NON-VENTILATING STORM DOORS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED for doors equipped with PLASTIC LITES and can void the warranty on the lites and doors. Observing this precaution will reduce heat build-up between the door and storm door.

How To Paint a Steel Door

Supplies Needed:



Choosing Paint, Preparing Surface

1 The paint you choose is very important. Select any good exterior latex (water base) or oil base paint. Dark colors are not recommended for doors equipped with plastic lite frames.

2 Clean door surface. Examine your door for possible smudges or finger marks made from normal handling. Remove all smudges and marks with warm soapy water and a soft cloth. Rub with damp cloth gently being careful not to damage the prime coating. (Figure B)

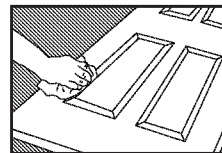


Figure B

Let the door dry completely. Normally, this will take around twenty minutes but it can vary depending on temperature and humidity.

BRUSH Painting

1 Apply a thin coat of paint lengthwise (top to bottom) along your door. If a brush is used remember to not overload the brush. Simply dip the end of your brush into the paint. Gently slide the flat side of the brush against the edge of the opening of the paint container to drain off the excess paint. (Figure C)

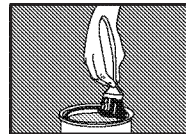


Figure C

2 Apply the paint in the direction of the grain, with even, gentle strokes using the end of the brush. Press hard enough to flex the bristles just a little and then pull the brush gently along the door's surface. (Figure D)

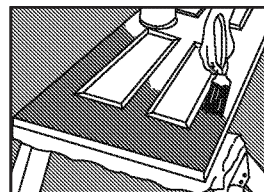


Figure D

3 Pull the brush along the same area two or three times to even out the paint and then go on to a new unprimed area. Apply paint with even strokes that travel length-wise along the door (from top to bottom) rather than side to side.

4 Apply top coat following the same procedures as shown in steps 3 thru 5.

SPRAY Painting

1 Use a spray gun to apply a thin coat of paint lengthwise (top to bottom) along your door. Keep the nozzle about twelve inches from the surface for best results. (Figure E)

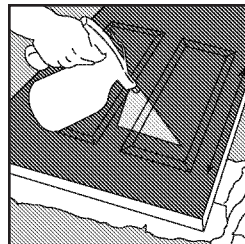


Figure E

2 Once the first coat has dried a few minutes, you can spray on a second coating, this time applying it from side to side. (Figure F)

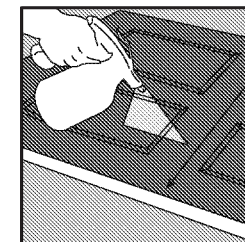


Figure F

3 Apply top coat following the same procedures as shown in steps 1 and 2.

NOTE: Before you begin to finish the opposite side of your door, be sure the painted side is completely dry.

How To Stain a Textured Steel Door

Supplies Needed (Figure C)



Choose Stain Use any good quality artist oil or stain with a heavily pigmented oil base. (semi transparent stains are not recommended.) ZAR type stains, avail. @ hardware stores, may be used. To retard drying time of stain for more working time, use 1 oz. of "boiled" linseed oil per quart. Mix thoroughly.

Apply Stain:

Pre-Installation Procedures

1 Pour a moderate bead of stain on the flat surfaces of the door.

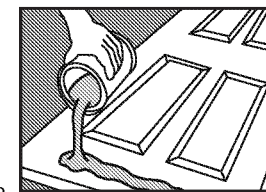


Figure D

2 With brush or partial piece of paint roller, spread the stain as evenly as possible on the entire surface of the door and all edges. Try to keep stain from pooling into embossments. (Figure D)

3 The object of this step is to apply a generous amount of stain to the entire door surface. Apply the stain quickly covering the door surface. Do not scrub the surface of the door with your brush. Do not brush the same area more than once. (Figure E)

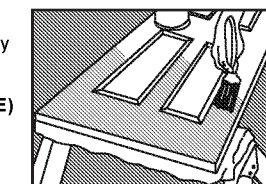


Figure E

Finish Stain

1 Wipe Fold cloth to form a small pad approx 4" x 4. Wipe the door from side to side over the entire surface or across the grain and from top to bottom or with the grain. This should be done with as little pressure as possible on the cloth pad Work quickly. (Figure F)

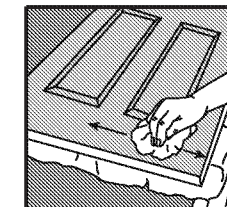


Figure F

2 Pad Dab Using a second cloth, fold as before and dab lightly to remove excess stain from embossed areas. (Figure G) Make sure that too much of the stain is not removed.

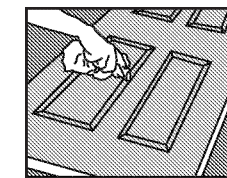


Figure G

Using a paint brush in the embossed areas or sunken area of the face of the door, brush lightly to even the remaining stain. If too dark, dab more with pad. If too light, use the first paper towel to reissue stain to those areas needed.

3 Wipe Again with the towel pad, wipe across the grain over the entire door. Then wipe with the grain over the entire door. Remember the pressure you use will effect the surface color. If you want a dark shade use light pressure, and heavier pressure for a lighter shade. (Figure H)

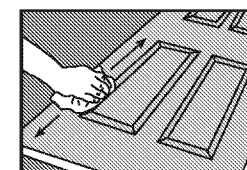


Figure H

4 Brush Dab Take the paint brush and lightly dab only the recessed area of the embossments. Wipe excess stain from brush as needed. Lightly brush the embossments with the grain to remove dab marks and even the stain.

5 Repeat step two. Any wiping with cloth pad at this point should be soft, gentle strokes for a finished look. Do not wipe across the grain more than 4 times.

If shade of color is too light, you are wiping too hard.

NOTE: The staining process entails smoothing the stain over the door surface rather than an absorption process.

6 Staining Other Side Turn door over. Repeat entire process.

7 Drying Let stain completely dry for 12 to 24 hours.

8 Top Coat Brush or spray a good quality exterior polyurethane of your choice and let dry per product instructions. Weatherseal or waterseal products are not recommended.

HOW TO SEAL THE STAIN COATING

The seal coating for your door is very important. It protects the stain coating and primer coating from weathering elements. The seal coating makes your door cleanable too.

Be sure that the stain coating is completely dry before proceeding with sealing.

Select any commercially available high quality, clear, exterior polyurethane coating product with UV protection that you would normally use for exterior wood applications (satin or a gloss finish).

Either a spray unit or brush may be used to apply the seal coat.

Refer to the "Brush" section under How To Seal if a brush is used.

Refer to the "Spray" section under How To Seal if a spray unit is used.

BRUSH Sealing

1 Do not overload the brush. Simply dip the end of your brush into the coating. Gently slide the flat side of the brush against the edge of the opening of the container to drain off the excess. (Figure I)

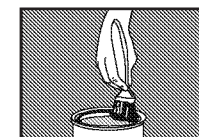


Figure I

2 Apply with even gentle strokes using the end of the brush. Press hard enough to flex the bristles just a little and then pull the brush gently along the door's surface. (Figure J)

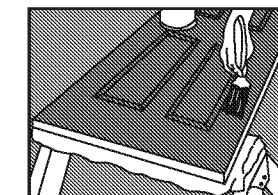


Figure J

3 As you apply the seal coating, pull the brush quickly along the same area two or three times lightly to even out the brush strokes and then continue on.

Do not try to brush after initial application. Possible damage to the stain coating may result.

The surface of the seal coating will "settle" as the coating dries and the brush strokes will be even less apparent.

4 Allow the first seal coat to dry completely, at least 24 hrs, then apply a second seal coat following steps 1-3. A minimum of two coats of polyurethane is required for complete protection.

The door should be RESEALED ANNUALLY to ensure lasting protection of the finish.

SPRAY Sealing

1 Using an aerosol spray can or spray gun, apply a thin coat of polyurethane lengthwise (top to bottom) along your door. Keep the nozzle about twelve inches from the surface for best results. (Figure K)

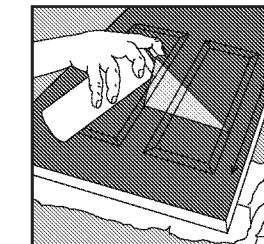


Figure K

2 Once the first coat has dried a few minutes, spray on a second coating, this time applying it from side to side. A minimum of two coats of polyurethane is required for complete protection. The door should be RESEALED ANNUALLY to ensure lasting protection of the finish. (Figure L)

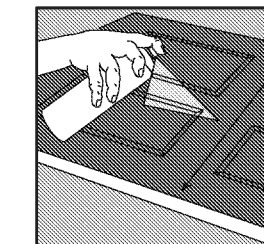


Figure L