

# Finishing Guide

Your GlassCraft® door has been handcrafted to last for years. And like any piece of fine furniture, it needs proper finishing and periodic maintenance to keep it in top condition. The most important single method to ensure the door's longevity is to apply a high quality stain and finish. Please note that failure to follow GlassCraft's care & finishing recommendations will void the door's warranty.

## Finishing Options for Wood Doors

Because GlassCraft doors are crafted from beautiful hardwoods, you can choose from a wide variety of stain or paint possibilities. Paint dealers have a broad selection of color chips on hand to demonstrate the look you can achieve when staining fine wood.

## Upon Receipt Of Door

Inspect your door thoroughly. Immediately check for squareness or warp. Do not cut, fit, or hang any door with any noticeable damage or defects. If any type of problem is found, notify the company from which you purchased the door for further instructions.

## Storage & Handling

1. Before installing, allow 24 — 48 hours for the door to adapt to the general humidity and temperature conditions of your area.
2. Doors should always be stored flat, in a clean, dry, well-ventilated room. Protect from dirt, water, and abuse. If stored for long periods, doors should be sealed with a high quality sealer or primer.
3. Doors should be stored in a dry area, and must not be exposed to abnormal heat, direct sunlight, direct moisture, or extreme dryness or humidity.
4. Deliver to your building site after the plaster and cement are completely dry. Avoid prolonged exposure to heated or air-conditioned environments prior to finishing.
5. If the doors are to be stored on the job site, all ends and edges must be sealed with a wood sealer in order to prevent moisture absorption.
6. Doors should always be handled with clean hands or while wearing clean gloves, to prevent dirt and oils from penetrating the wood grains.
7. Doors should be lifted and carried, not dragged in order to prevent damage to the wood surface.

## Preparation for Finishing

1. Prior to finishing, insure that the building atmosphere is dried to a normal, interior relative humidity. Insure that the doors have been allowed to equalize to a stable moisture content.
2. Doors must be completely finished on all 6 sides prior to final installation. **Installation of an unfinished door will void the warranty.**
3. To assure uniform moisture exposure and dimensional control, ALL surfaces must be treated equally. This includes front and back, top, bottom, and 2 sides.
4. Before finishing, cut, fit, and hang the door. Then remove the door and any hardware prior to

finishing. When trimming the door, do not remove more than 1" from the bottom rail and/or 1/2" from the top rail of the door. Do not reduce the width of the door by removing more than 1/2" from either side edge.

**Removal of more than these amounts from the door will void the warranty.**

5. Before applying the first finishing coat, sand entire surface lightly to remove handling marks, raised grain, or other undesirable blemishes. Use 120 to 180 grit sandpaper, and always sand in the direction of the grain. Spot sanding can cause the finish to appear splotchy.
6. After sanding, clean the entire door with a clean cloth to remove all dust or foreign debris. (Avoid caustic or abrasive cleaners).
7. Certain species of wood contain chemicals that react unfavorably with certain finishes, causing dark stain spots. Where possible, the finish selection should be tested prior to complete application.
8. Avoid very dark stains or dark colored paints on door surfaces exposed directly to sunlight. Dark colors induce warping.
9. Properly finish the entire door. Coat all 6 edges (including top, bottom, sides, and face surfaces) with each application. Adequate drying time between coats must be allowed, as the door must be dry before the next finishing step.

### **Exterior Finishing**

**CAUTION:** GlassCraft Door Company does not evaluate all of the available paints, stains, or application requirements. Contact your paint dealer for systems best suited for your geographic region. Select only top quality finishes, and follow all of the finish manufacturers **complete instructions**.

### **Stain-and-Clear Finish**

1. To color stain and seal, make first coat a stain or stain-and-sealer coat. All stain and clear finishes will perform better if protected from the direct effects of sunlight and moisture weathering, thereby requiring refinishing less frequently.
2. Make second coat a top quality sanding sealer or top coat material. Urethane-based finish systems with UV inhibitors is an excellent choice for a door finish. Be sure the door surface to be finished is satisfactory in both smoothness and color after each coat before applying the next coat.
3. Lightly sand with 180 to 220 grit sandpaper or #0000 steel wool between each top coat. Remove dust before recoating.
4. Minimum of 3 top coats (in addition to the base stain coat) on all 6 edges is required for proper protection.

Recommended staining and finishing steps:

Remove handling marks and final sanding

Raw wood treated with penetrating wiping stain

Repeat penetrating wiping stain if required for desired color

Light sanding if desired

First coat of sanding sealer or top coat

Fine sand by hand

Second coat of top coat

Fine sand by hand  
Third coat of top coat

**Paint Finish**

1. To paint finish your door, use a solvent based primer coat and a compatible solvent based finish coat.
2. Sand all surfaces between all coats of primer and finish.
3. A minimum of three top coats on all 6 edges is recommended for proper protection

**Jamb and Threshold Guidelines**

1. Caulk at sill-to-jamb leg connection.
2. Use corner pads where sill meets jamb.
3. Install door sweep on door.
4. Completely seal bottom edge of door prior to installation of door sweep. We recommend a latex caulk coating on bottom edge of door prior to door sweep attachment.
5. Seal the bottom of the jamb legs with a caulk coating.