

Valley Oak Industries, Inc. – Door Care Sheet

Storage and Handling.

1. To Keep doors protected use clean gloves and equipment; cover, but allow for air circulation. Carry, do not drag doors over anything.
2. Store flat on a level surface in a dry, well-ventilated building. Avoid stacking on end or storing on cement floor.
3. If the doors are to be stored on the job site, the entire door including top and bottom edges must be sealed with a clear pigment-based sealer within 24 hours of delivery to prevent moisture absorption until a final sealer can be applied.
4. Never subject doors to abnormal heat, dryness or humidity for prolonged periods. *Important:* Wood doors should be conditioned for 24 hours to average prevailing relative humidity of the locality before hanging.
5. Deliver doors in clean truck and under cover in wet weather and only after all plaster, texture and/or cement on the building site is dry.

Fitting and Hanging.

1. When hanging door, allow adequate clearance for swelling of frame in extremely damp weather.
2. Use designated sizes to avoid cutting door width. For trimming ends, a sharp, fine-tooth saw is recommended. Consult your dealer prior to trimming for maximum trimming allowance.
3. Use caution to avoid impairing structural strength of the door when fitting for hardware or special features. To Prevent distortion, set hinges in straight line. Use three hinges on doors 7'0" or less; four hinges on doors over 7' in height. Jambs and stops must be square and plumb.
4. Outward swinging doors exposed to the elements must be properly protected with a minimum 3' overhang within 24" from the top of the door. Outward swinging doors with less overhang are not warranted.
5. Immediately after fitting or cutting and prior to weatherstripping and hanging any door, the entire surface including the top and bottom surfaces, must receive 2 coats of oil based primer, varnish or a quality sealer to prevent moisture absorption.
6. To minimize heat loss, thus reducing energy costs, use any good weatherstrip on exterior doors.

Preparation, Finishing and Beauty Tips.

- Inspect door carefully for defects before finishing.
- Seal top and bottom edges promptly with an oil based product to prevent undue moisture absorption.
- Handle with clean gloves and equipment and store flat in a dry, clean, well-ventilated area. Allow door to be conditioned to average local humidity prior to installing. Doors should be sealed within 24 hours of delivery to site.
- Hang door and fit for hardware and weatherstrip. *Note:* Use 3 hinges on doors up to 7' in height; and 4 hinges on doors over 7' in height.
- Be sure jambs and stops are set perfectly square and plumb.
- Immediately after fitting and machining, remove door and sand lightly with 50 (180 grit) sandpaper and clean off remaining dust. Repeat procedure between each application.
- Seal and finish properly on both sides and all edges including top and bottom. This procedure must be followed with every coat of finish. *Note:* Use only high quality finish and do not alter or thin the contents of the paint container.

Exterior Finishing.

1. Stain and Clear Finish.
 - a. The first coat should be a stain and sealer, which will both color the door and seal the surface. Choose one with an alkyd resin base. Do not alter or thin. Never use a lacquer-based toner or any other lacquer-based finish.
 - b. The second coat may be a solvent-borne (oil-base, alkyd resin-base, polyurethane resin-base) or water-borne (latex resin-base) clear finish, unaltered. Be sure this coat is compatible with the first coat.
2. Paint Finish: Seal doors with a quality oil-based primer and no fewer than 2 top coats of a solvent-based or latex resin-based exterior paint, unaltered/unthinned.. Dark colors must be avoided where exposure to direct sun is expected.
3. You should consult your paint dealer for the finish systems best suited for use in your region. We recommend that you select top quality paint.
4. Doors that are glazed with clear glass require special care. The finish should flow from the wood slightly onto the glass (approx. 1/16") to provide assurance against water leakage and protect the glazing putty from drying out. Back putty prior to finishing.
5. All surfaces of the door must be properly finished. All top, bottom and side edges must be coated with each and every coat that is applied to the face of the door. All surfaces must be treated equally to assure uniform moisture exposure dimensional control.
6. The life expectancy of today's finish products has been greatly reduced as a direct result of stringent environmental regulations. Thus, *Refinishing Should be Conducted on a YEARLY basis.*

