

# FINISHING GUIDE FOR YOUR FRONTLINE BLDG. PRODUCTS INC. DOOR

Prior to installation, care must be taken to ensure the timeless beauty and weatherable durability of your new FrontLine door product. The most important item to remember is your door should be finished prior to being placed into service or immediately thereafter. This includes all interior and exterior wood surfaces. Failure to do so will void any written or implied warranties and may diminish the life expectancy of your purchased product.

## Determining a Finish & its Application

- The primary purpose of finishing, other than aesthetics, is to protect the wood components against moisture. It is for this reason that a high quality finish should be selected.
- The characteristics of wood vary within a given species. Included are color variation, wood grain patterns and ability to accept finish. These characteristics should be taken into consideration when selecting a method for finishing.
- Color should also be considered when determining a finish. Dark colors absorb a great deal more heat than lighter color. Because of this, doors finished in a darker finish and subjected to the sun's exposure will tend to shrink and swell a great deal more than those finished in a lighter color. This could cause mating surfaces to separate allowing moisture to migrate to unfinished surfaces. This is not a manufacturer's defect.

It is recommended that you contact a finish supplier for recommendations on types of topcoat finishes and preparatory finishes that should be utilized, prior to application of paints, stains or any other finishes.

## Preparation prior to finishing should include:

- Removal of all hardware and weatherstrip (top and bottom sweep may remain)
- Lightly sanding surface of wood components. Depending on the wood and finish, the grit of sandpaper may vary. Typically a range of 150 to 220 is recommended. Avoid sanding top and bottom sweep. Sand in the direction of the wood's grain.
- Ensure all contaminants have been eliminated from the face of the surface to be finished. This may include dust, dirt, any moisture or oils that may have come into contact with the product's wood surfaces. Do not use any caustic or abrasive cleaners.



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## Interior Finishing

- Care must be taken when applying a finish to avoid contact with vinyl surfaces. Surfaces, such as some vinyl, may degrade when exposed to certain finishes.
- It is not recommended that a non-moisture barrier type finish be applied to any wood component. These include Tung oil, Danish oil or any type of penetrating oil. These types of products allow moisture to penetrate, exposing the wood to possible deterioration, rot, delamination or warping.
- Apply finishes as specified by the manufacturer, paying close attention to recommended dry times between each application. Sand lightly and clean surfaces with a tack cloth between each coat. Make sure to apply finishes in a ventilated area.

## Exterior Finishing

- Follow recommendation listed above, including those laid out in "Interior Finishing".
- Exterior wood surfaces must be finished immediately to prevent damage from the outside environment. Ensure the finish is adequately applied to all visible, as well as covered, overlapping surfaces. This includes holes bored into a face of the door for hardware and in the gap created at the end of each bar adhered to the face of the glass.
- Apply at least two coats of a selected finish.
- The wood portion of the sill must be finished in the same manner as specified above. It is recommended that at least two coats of a marine grade polyurethane be applied.

## Maintenance

- Periodic inspection of your door must be performed. This is especially critical for the sill. The time between inspections will vary, depending on the region of the country your product has been placed into service. Re-apply finish coat as required.
- Consult finish manufacturer for recommendations on cleaning finished surfaces.

