



Steel Door + Window Systems

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Wood Door Guide

Storage, Handling, Finishing, Installation and
Maintenance of Stiles Wood Doors
per WDMA I.S.1A - 2004

To preserve the fine qualities of wood doors and a lifetime of superior service, proper storage, handling, finishing and installation is very important. The following procedures are required to maintain the high quality products supplied by Stiles Custom Metal, Inc. Failure to comply with these procedures will nullify any warranty extended by Stiles Custom Metal, Inc.

Storage and Handling

1. Store doors flat on a level surface in a dry, well-ventilated building. Doors must not come in contact with water. Doors should be kept at least 4" off the floor and must have protective coverings under the door bottom and over the top. Covering must protect doors from dirt, water and abuse but allow for air circulation under and around the stack. Do not store doors longer than 15 days.
2. Doors must not be subjected to direct sunlight. Certain species (e.g., cherry, mahogany, walnut, and teak) in an unfinished state, are more susceptible to discoloration if exposed to sunlight or some forms of artificial light. To protect doors from light damage after delivery, opaque wrapping of individual doors may be specified.
3. Do not subject interior doors to extremes of heat and/or humidity. Do not allow doors to come in contact with water. Prolonged exposure may cause damage. Buildings where humidity and temperature are controlled provide the best storage facilities. Conditions for storage, installation and use must be maintained between 25% - 55% RH and 50°F - 90°F.
4. Do not install doors in buildings that have wet plaster or cement. Do not store doors in buildings with excessive moisture content – HVAC systems must be operating and balanced.
5. Doors must always be handled with clean dry hands or while wearing clean dry gloves.
6. Doors must be lifted and carried when being moved, not dragged across one another or any other surface.

Finishing

1. Wood is hygroscopic and dimensionally influenced by changes in moisture content caused by changes within its surrounding environment. To assure uniform moisture exposure and dimensional control, all surfaces must be finished equally. Doors must be finished within 5 days of delivery from Stiles Custom Metal, Inc.
2. Wood doors must not be considered ready for finishing when initially received. Before finishing, remove all handling marks, raised grain, scuffs, burnishes and other undesirable blemishes by block sanding all surfaces in a horizontal position with 120, 150 or 180 grit sandpaper. All architectural wood flush doors, due to their weight, naturally compress the face veneer grain while in the stack. Therefore, sanding of the overall surface will be required to open the veneer grain to receive a field applied finish evenly. To avoid cross grain scratches, sand with the grain.

Finishing (continued)

3. Certain species of wood, particularly oak, may contain extractives which react unfavorably with foreign materials in the finishing system. Do not use steel wool on bare wood. Do not use rusty containers or any other contaminate in the finishing system.
4. A thinned coat of sanding sealer should be applied prior to staining to promote a uniform appearance and avoid sharp contrasts in color or a blotchy appearance. [Stiles Custom Metal, Inc. is not responsible for the final appearance of field-finished doors. The painting contractor must make adjustments as needed to achieve desired results.](#)
5. All exposed, unfinished wood surfaces must be finished and the top and bottom rails sealed within 5 days of delivery from the Stiles Custom Metal, Inc. Cutouts for lites and hardware must be sealed prior to installation of hardware, where applicable.
6. Do not use dark colored finishes on door surfaces that will be exposed to direct sunlight to minimize the chance of warping or veneer checking.
7. Do not use water-based sealers, primers, or other finishes on Stile & Rail doors or frames. Water-based coatings applied to unfinished wood will cause de-lamination, veneer splits, highlight joints and raise wood grain. If used on exterior doors, the coating must be an exterior grade product. When installed in exterior applications, doors must be properly sealed and adequately protected from the elements. Please follow the finish and door manufacturer's recommendations regarding the correct application and use of these products. [Stiles Custom Metal, Inc. does not guarantee wood doors installed in exterior locations.](#)
8. The door surface must be thoroughly finished in both smoothness and color after each coat. Allow adequate drying time between coats. Desired results are best achieved by following the finish manufacturer's recommendations. Do not finish doors until a sample of the finish has been approved.
9. Certain wood fire doors may have fire retardant salts impregnated into various wood components that make the components more hygroscopic than normal wood. When exposed to high moisture conditions, these salts will concentrate on exposed surfaces and interfere with the finish. Before finishing the treated wood, reduce moisture content below 11% and remove the salt crystals with a damp cloth followed by drying and light sanding.

Installation

1. The utility or structural strength of the doors must not be impaired when fitting to the opening, in applying hardware, in preparing for lites, louvers, plant-ons or other detailing.
2. All hardware locations, preparations and methods of attachment must be appropriate for the specific door construction.
3. Doors and door frames must be installed plumb, square and level.

Cleaning and Touchup

1. Inspect all wood doors prior to hanging them on the job. Repair noticeable marks or defects that may have occurred due to improper storage or handling.
2. [Field repairs and touchups are the responsibility of the installing contractor upon completion of initial installation.](#) Field touchup shall include the filling of exposed nail or screw holes, re-finishing of raw surfaces resulting from job fitting, repair of job inflicted scratches and mars and final cleaning of finished surfaces.
3. When cleaning door surfaces, use a non-abrasive commercial cleaner designed for cleaning wood door or paneling surfaces, that does not leave a film residue that would build up or affect the surface finish gloss.

Adjustment and Maintenance

1. Insure that all doors swing freely and do not bind in their frames. Adjust the finish hardware for proper alignment, smooth operation and proper latching without unnecessary force or excessive clearance.
2. Review with the owner/owner's representative how to periodically inspect all doors for wear, damage and natural deterioration.
3. Review with the owner/owner's representative how to periodically inspect and adjust all hardware to insure that it continues to function as it was originally intended.
4. Finishes on exterior doors may deteriorate due to exposure to the environment. In order to protect the door it is recommended that the condition of the exterior finish be inspected at least once a year and re-finished as needed. Both exterior and interior finishes will change color over time. Stiles Custom Metal, Inc. does not guarantee doors installed in an exterior application.