

# FIBERGLASS FINISHING FOR WOOD GRAIN AND SMOOTH SURFACE

## STORAGE & HANDLING

- Store door/sidelite flat, on a level surface, in a dry, well-ventilated area.
- Cover door/sidelite loosely to keep clean, but allow air circulation.
- Do not subject door/sidelite to any extreme conditions such as, but not limited to, heat, cold, dryness, moisture, dampness, humidity.

**Please read all finishing instructions before beginning!**

## SURFACE PREPARATION

- Hang door unit before finishing, then remove hinge pins and remove the door slab to finish properly.
- DO NOT SAND FIBERGLASS.
- Lay door horizontally on padded saw horses or a table.
- Remove any excess glazing sealant by first spraying with a window cleaner or water. Then carefully use a single edge razor blade at a 45° angle to scrape glazing from glass along the edge of the frame.
- Remove all hardware and mask off anything you don't want finished, such as the glass insert.
- Wipe door with mineral spirits or all purpose cleaner to clean any dust or residue from surface. Allow to dry before applying paint or stain.

## CAUTION!

1. When applying primer, paint or stain, be sure the working area is well ventilated.
2. Keep away from heat and flame! Paint, stain, and top coat are combustible.
3. Paint and primer may cause skin and eye irritation. Avoid contact with skin and eyes.
4. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

Remember to properly dispose of all waste and soiled rags according to your local, state and federal environmental laws.

- Work in a clean environment to minimize dust.
- Work only when temperatures are between 50° and 90°F and with humidity less than 85%. Do not finish in direct sunlight.
- Wear safety glasses for eye protection, and wear rubber gloves to prevent soiling the door with oil from your hands. Use a painter's mask.
- Follow instructions from paint/stain/top coat manufacturer.
- All surfaces of the door must be properly finished, including top and side edges.
- Do not prime or stain weatherstrip or door sweep, as the door will not seal/close properly.

## STAINING

For stained surfaces, we **only** recommend the use of the stain and clear top coat product found in the Therma-Tru Finishing Kit. The kit comes with everything you need to finish a complete door unit with two sidelites or a double door unit:

- Pre-mixed stain (1/2 pint)
- Mineral spirits (4 oz.)
- Clear topcoat (20 oz.)
- 3" China bristle brush
- Two clean cotton rags
- One pair protective gloves
- Two stir sticks
- Two door skin samples
- Detailed finishing instructions

You will also need a lint-free cloth and mineral spirits for cleaning entire door unit.

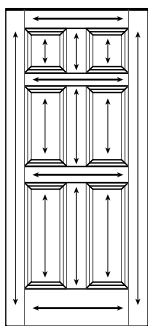
### Stain components first:

Door Edges; Mullions; Astragals; Brickmould, Wood Frame/Jamb

- Stir the stain well.
- Above wood components may be primed white, but will accept stain.
- Stain by lightly wiping first with a stain-saturated rag. Then, use dry 3" bristle brush to blend stain evenly on wood components.
- More stain may be applied later to darken the component, if needed.

### Staining the Door:

- Practice on one skin sample first (light, medium or dark finish).
- Stir the stain well. Dip the stain cloth in stain.
- Rub stain on door in circular motion to get pigments into the grain.



- See detailed instructions from Finishing Kit.
- Wait before brushing. The longer the stain is left to set up before brushing, the darker the color will become.
- Brush gently with long sweeping motions using dry brush in the direction of the grain.
- Use brush tips to gently move the stain into corners.
- Frequently remove excess stain from your brush with a clean cloth, as you are brushing.
- Stain second skin sample and let dry in same conditions door is drying; used for test of dryness later.

### Clean up:

- Clean stain from brush with mineral spirits or naphtha.
- Same brush will be used to apply clear top coat.
- Soak stain saturated rags in a water-filled closed container before disposal.

### Protective Topcoat:

- Use Therma-Tru's water-based top coat from Finishing Kit.
- Allow stain to dry at least 48 hours. Stain must be completely dry before topcoat is applied
- Use second skin sample to test for dryness. Place a piece of masking tape on stained surface, rub down well and then remove. Stain is completely dry when tape can be removed without taking any of the stain off the sample. If not dry, wait another 12–24 hours and repeat test.

### First coat:

- Stir the topcoat well.
- Apply a thin layer of topcoat in the order you applied the stain (door unit and sample).
- The topcoat is milky in appearance. Do not overbrush.
- Wait 3–5 hours for the first layer to dry.
- Do not sand between coats.

### Second coat:

- Apply 2nd thin layer of topcoat with the brush.
- Surface should look wet but not milky.
- Again, topcoat your stained sample. (See MAINTENANCE)
- Wait 3–5 hours for the second layer to dry or until dry to the touch.
- Clean the brush with detergent and water.

## PAINTING

You will need these materials before you start:

- a lint-free cloth
- all purpose cleaner
- rubber gloves
- masking tape
- 4" bristle brush or spray gun system
- high quality exterior grade alkyd- or acrylic-based primer
- high quality acrylic latex house paint

Follow Surface Preparation instructions before beginning.

### Primer:

- Prime the door by applying primer with 4" brush in the direction of the wood grain (refer to the door staining/painting diagram at left). Follow primer manufacturer's recommendations for drying time before applying topcoat. Primer must be completely dry before applying any finish top coat.

### Paint:

- Apply exterior grade paint with a 4" brush in the direction of the grain. All door panels, stiles and rails need to be painted (refer to the door staining/painting diagram at left).
- If applying a second coat, follow the manufacturer's recommendations for drying time between coats.

## IMPORTANT TIPS

- **All it takes is one rainy day to ruin an unfinished door unit.** All doors/sidelites/jamb materials must be properly finished in accordance with these instructions immediately after installation or before any exposure to the elements or warranty will be void.
- All exterior finishes must have ultraviolet (UV) inhibitors.
- Choose compatible finishing products from the same manufacturer for best results.
- Finishes should be applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- All 6 sides of door slab should be finished equally.  
NOTE: If you purchased a prehung door unit, the bottom edge of the door was pre-sealed at the factory.

# MAINTENANCE

## MAINTENANCE FOR STAINED FIBERGLASS ENTRY/PATIO DOORS

- Exposure to the elements, and weathering from the sun, moisture and air pollutants will cause a well-finished exterior fiberglass door to be affected. Normal maintenance is to reapply the topcoat every 3–5 years. This does not require stripping and restaining.
- Direct sunlight will cause the finish on any door to deteriorate faster.
- Compare skin sample (stored away in cool, dry place and way from sun) against door to check for loss of gloss or roughness of the top coat.
- If stain finish on door becomes undesirable over time, stripping and refinishing your fiberglass door is an option. We **only** recommend the use of the stain and clear top coat product found in the Therma-Tru Finishing Kit.