Field Finish Guidelines

If circumstances indicate that interior flush wood doors are to be field finished away from the controlled environment of the factory, there are recommended practices that should be followed. Most, if not all, manufacturers of architectural flush wood doors will not warrant the appearance or performance of doors that have not been properly sealed or field finished.

Storage and Handling

- Store doors flat on a level surface in a dry well-ventilated building. Any covering should protect the doors from dirt, water and abuse while allowing for air circulation under and around the stack.
- Cherry, mahogany, walnut, teak and certain other species of wood will discolor if exposed to sunlight or some artificial light sources. Protect doors specified in those species by also specifying that they be covered with opaque wrap.
- Oak and some other species contain acids that react with ferrous metals producing a dark blue-black stain. Avoid the use of steel wool on the raw wood. Do not subject interior doors to extremes of temperature and/or humidity. Prolonged exposure may cause damage. Recommended conditions for proper storage are 30% to 50% relative humidity and 50 degrees F to 90 degrees F.
- Do not install doors in buildings with excessively dry or moist environments. HVAC systems should be operating and balanced.
- Doors should be handled with clean hands or while wearing clean gloves.
- When moving doors do not drag one across the surface of the next door. Lift and carry the door to its new location.

Finishing

- Wood absorbs and releases moisture readily in its surrounding environment. As a result it may change shape or warp. To assure dimensional stability seal and topcoat finish all surfaces equally.
- Wood doors should not be stained or topcoat finished before the wood surface is properly prepared. Before finishing lay the door flat and block sand all surfaces to remove all handling marks, drag marks, raised grain, scuffs, burnishes and other unwanted blemishes. Sand the surface of the door using 100 grit to 150 grit sandpaper. Always sand in the same direction as the grain to avoid cross grain scratches.
- A solution of 80% solvent and 20% sanding sealer may be applied to the complete preparation of the door surface prior to staining. Allow the solution to dry which uniformly raises the wood grain and completely face sand the surface of the door. This promotes a uniform appearance and avoids blotchiness.
- Wood door finishes must be properly maintained to prevent deterioration and promote the life of the door.

WDMA Field Finish Guidelines

Improper storage, handling, finishing and installation of wood doors may result in severe damage to the doors. The following guidelines will help to maintain the high quality products supplied by wood door manufacturers.

Storage and Handling

- Store doors flat on a level surface in a dry well-ventilated building. Doors should be kept at least 3-1/2" off the floor and should have protective coverings under the bottom door and over the top. Covering should protect doors from dirt, water and abuse but allow for air circulation under and around the stack. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight.
- Certain species (e.g., Cherry, Mahogany, Walnut, Teak) are more susceptible to discoloration if exposed to either sunlight or some forms of artificial light. To protect doors from light damage after delivery, opaque plastic wrapping of individual doors should be specified.
- Do not subject interior doors to extremes of heat and/or humidity. Prolonged exposure may cause damage. Buildings where humidity and temperature are controlled provide the best storage facilities (recommended conditions 30%-50% RH and 50°F to 90°F.)
- Do not install doors in buildings that have wet plaster or cement unless they have been properly finished. Do not store doors in buildings with excessive moisture content – HVAC systems should be operational and balanced.
- Doors should be handled with clean hands or while wearing clean gloves.
- Doors should be lifted and carried when being moved, not dragged across one another.