

# EVERMARK WOOD DOOR USE AND CARE GUIDELINES

## STORAGE AND HANDLING

Severe damage can result from improper storage, handling, finishing and installation of wood doors. These guidelines can help maintain high quality.

1. Doors should be stored flat on a level surface in a dry, well-ventilated building. Provide for protective coverings under the bottom door (at least 3-1/2" off the floor) and over the top door. The covering should allow for air circulation under and around the stack but protect doors from dirt, water, abuse, and exposure to direct sunlight.
2. Temperature and humidity-controlled buildings provide the best storage. Interior doors should not be subjected to extreme heat and/or humidity as prolonged exposure may cause damage. Recommended conditions are 30% - 50% RH and 30°F to 90°F.
3. Do not install doors in buildings where there is wet plaster or cement unless they have been properly finished. Buildings with excessive moisture content should not be used to store doors. HVAC systems should be operating and balanced.
4. Handle doors only with clean hands or while wearing clean gloves.
5. Dragging doors across one another can cause damage. Doors should be lifted and carried when being moved.

## INSTALLATION

### Preparation

1. The utility or structural strength of the doors should not be compromised in fitting to the opening, in applying hardware, in preparing for louvers, lights, plants-on or other detailing.
2. A minimum of two hinges should be used for 1-3/8" doors up to 80" in height, three hinges for all doors 1-3/4" and up to 84" in height and four hinges for doors over 84" up to 96" in height.
3. Ensure a minimum clearance between door edges and doorframe of 1/16" on the hinge edge. The clearance should be 1/8" (0", -1/16") for latch edge and top rail.
4. Verify that all hardware locations, preparations for hardware and methods of hardware attachments are appropriate for the specific door construction. Hardware manufacturers make templates for specific hardware preparation available for this purpose.
5. Any screws that are hardware attachments should have pre-drilled pilot holes. Threaded-to-the-head screws are required on Wood-rated doors and are preferable for fastening hardware to non-rated doors.

### Cleaning & Touch-Up

1. Before hanging, inspect all wood stile and rail doors. Repair any noticeable marks or defects from improper storage and handling.
2. Field repairs and touch-ups are the responsibility of the installing contractor. Field touch-up includes the filling of exposed nail or screw holes, refinishing raw surfaces resulting from job fitting, repair of scratches and mars that are job inflicted, and final cleaning of finished surfaces.
3. Use a non-abrasive commercial cleaner designed for cleaning wood door or panel surfaces when cleaning door surfaces. The cleanser should not leave a film residue that could build up or affect the surface gloss of the door finish.

### Adjustment & Maintenance

1. Check that the door swings freely and does not stick in the frame. The finish hardware should be properly aligned to allow smooth operation and proper latching without excessive force or clearance. Adjust if necessary.
2. Review periodic inspection procedures for wear, damage and natural deterioration with the owner/owner's representative.
3. Review with the owner/owner's representative for periodic inspection and adjustment procedures for all hardware to ensure that it continues to function properly.

## FINISHING

**IMPORTANT: YOUR EVERMARK® WOOD DOOR PANEL MUST BE FINISHED (SEALED) ON ALL SIDES (INCLUDING PANEL EDGES) OR WARRANTY WILL BE VOID.**

1. Treat all surfaces equally to ensure uniform moisture exposure and dimensional control.
2. Block sand all surfaces in a horizontal position with 120, 150, or 180 grit sandpaper to remove all handling marks, raised grain, scuffs, burnishes and other blemishes before applying the First finishing coat. Sand with the grain to avoid cross-grain scratches.
3. To remove all dust and foreign debris after sanding, clean entire door with soft cloth. Do not use caustic or abrasive materials.
4. Prior to staining, apply a thinned coat of sanding sealer to promote a uniform appearance and avoid sharp color contrast or blotchiness.
5. Any exposed wood surface should be sealed, including top and bottom rail ends. Hardware cutouts in exterior doors must be sealed prior to installation of hardware and exposure to weather.
6. Before finishing, adjust components as necessary. Wood panels may float. Use a wood block and hammer to carefully realign.
7. The door should be hung before finishing and then removed to finish properly. Ensure that the door is dry before finishing.
8. Some finishes or materials in the finishing process may react negatively with chemicals found within certain species of wood. To avoid problems, test the finish prior to application. Do not allow contact with steel wool, rusty containers or any other possible contaminate on bare wood.
9. Warping, veneer checking or sun damage can occur if dark finishes are used on doors exposed to direct sunlight.

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10. Use extra care on doors with clear glass. Allow the finish to flow from wood slightly onto glass and prevent water leakage and protect glazing putty.
11. The best base coats for finishing are oil-based sealers or primer coats. Only exterior grade water-based primers should be used.  
Note: Water-based coating should be avoided on unfinished wood since it can cause veneer splits, highlight joints and raised wood grain. If a water-based primer is required, please contact the finish supplier regarding the correct application and use of the product.
12. Allow enough time for drying between coats. Between each coat, inspect the surface for both smoothness and color.

## **Exterior Finishing**

### **Stain and Clear Finishing**

1. The first coat should be a stain-and-sealer with alkyd-resin base. Lacquer-based toner and lacquer-based finishes should not be used on exterior doors.
2. The second coat may be a solvent-borne (oil-base, alkyd resin-base, polyurethane resin-base) or water-borne (latex resin-base) clear finish. For all wood exterior doors a marine-grade varnish is recommended.
3. Less frequent refinishing will be required if stain-and-clear finishes are protected from sunlight and weathering.

### **Paint Finish**

1. Use a quality oil-based primer and at least two topcoats of oil-based or latex resin-based exterior paint to seal door.
2. Inspect finish at least once a year since exterior door finishes may deteriorate with exposure to the environment.
3. Refinish as need. EverMark is unable to evaluate all available paints, stains or application requirements. Your paint dealer can best advise you on top-quality finishes that are best suited to your area.

## **Interior Finishing**

### **Stain and Clear Finishing**

Use a solvent-borne finish for interior doors. Lacquer-based may be used. Prior to staining, use a pre-seal if using a brush. For best results, stains should be covered with at least two clear topcoats.

### **Paint Finish**

Use a quality oil-based primer to seal. Two topcoats of latex or solvent-based enamel should be applied.