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# Painting and Care

Our design, manufacture and quality control systems are all focused on providing doors with lasting good looks and reliability. Getting the most out of your doors begins the moment they arrive on your site and continues through painting, installation and beyond.

## When your doors arrive

If they're not pre-sealed, all doors must have both faces and all four edges sealed as soon as they arrive on site. This is particularly important for veneered door leaves. Don't leave doors in their raw state on site. Failure to seal doors promptly or correctly may invalidate their warranty.

When moving doors, they should be carefully lifted not slid. Doors should be stored away from heat and direct sunlight in dry, well-ventilated areas and never subjected to extremes in humidity and temperature.

To minimise the risk of distortion by normal temperature and humidity changes, they must be flat-stacked off the ground on three or more equally spaced bearers and clear of debris and moisture. Use spacers between glazed doors to prevent glazing bead damage. All doors should also be covered to prevent light shading and dust damage.

## NZFD Doors

NZFD doors feature a sophisticated Ultraviolet light (UV) cured sealer to keep the doors dimensionally stable by holding out moisture from atmospheric water vapour during storage. This sealer also effectively resists water if water based paints are used to finish the door. UV cured sealer provides a consistent finish and an easy surface for the painter to prepare.

The UV cured sealer requires very little sanding preparation. All that is required to prepare each face of the door for painting is a very fine buff with a 400g sanding pad. Once the door has been lightly sanded across both faces it is ready for its first coat providing all sanding dust etc has been removed.

*NOTE: if the UV cured sealer has been scratched a repair should be made and sealed with a solvent based paint before application of any water based paint. A full face re-prime may be needed to effectively mask the repair.*

It is important that the sealer is not scratched during handling if water-based paints are to be used. Surface scratching of the UV cured sealer can allow moisture from the paint into the door skin where it becomes trapped and could cause the skin to swell. It is important that coarser grit papers such as typical 180g or 220g are not used in the preparation of a door pre-primed with UV cured paint. A coarse grit paper may cause damage to the sealer which may not be evident to the eye, but could lead to water from aqueous paint absorbing into the skin.

## Paint and clear finishing

To achieve the best results, always follow paint manufacturers' recommendations. Complete and continuous protection by the coatings is important as humidity can cause deterioration of untreated doors over a period of time. A quick drying primer / undercoat is recommended to seal the surfaces on doors. Light sanding with fine paper between coats will remove grain-raise and further enhance the final finish.

For exterior doors and jambs, at least one of the finishing coats should be applied as soon after delivery or installation as possible, taking particular care to coat the bottom of the door. Any deterioration of the factory applied primer or base coat should be re-coated before further finishing coats are applied. Exterior doors and jambs should be finished in dry weather with the full finishing system is applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. The finish for exterior doors should be exterior quality paint or high build stain. Low build stains are not suitable for external applications. Dark coloured paint or stain finishes on north or north-west facing exterior doors may lead to high surface temperatures and increase the risk of distortion. Resene Cool Colour paints should be considered in these situations.

For fibreglass faced doors, lightly sand with 140 grit sandpaper, wipe down and prime with solvent-based etch primer. All six sides of the door must be painted with the Resene Cool Colours paint system, as it reduces heat transfer to the fibreglass. The warranty is void if the door is not correctly prepared and painted on installation.

Entrance tempered hardboard doors are designed for use in weather-protected situations only, and must not be subjected to direct sunlight or rain. All surfaces including top and bottom should be thoroughly sealed before fitting and finished to topcoat finish on all six surfaces. Doors should be finished in light reflective colours.

**Painting Tip:** Between the glass and the beading of the vision panel or window is a strip of ceramic tape which insulates the beading from heat transfer from the glass during a fire. The tape is visible through the glass, and will readily take up any paint applied to it. For best results when painting we recommend close attention to masking to protect the ceramic tape, and avoid heavy application of paint to the beading adjacent to the glass.

## Attaching hinges – door leaf only

Screw holding tests are routinely carried out during the manufacture of the door substrate. Laboratory tests demonstrate adequate screw holding characteristics for fixing door hinges. Practical experience has shown that, provided correct screws are fitted according to sound trade practices, screw holding is not a problem. If your door is not pre-hung, we recommend using 8-gauge 38 mm parallel shank screws for fitting standard hinges.

## Ongoing care

To maintain your door we recommend you inspect it six-monthly. Dust and wipe down with a damp cloth. Do not use abrasive or chemical cleaners. If necessary use a mild detergent.

Repair any scratches or breaks in the decorative or protective finish. Where our doors are installed in damp areas, such as a bathroom, any break in the surface must be repaired immediately. All maintenance painting or clear finishing must be in accordance with the coating manufacturer's instructions.

## Guarantee

New Zealand Fire Doors' products comply with the 15-year durability requirements of the New Zealand building code clause B2 DURABILITY. We also offer a warranty period of one (1) year from date of installation, against defects in materials or workmanship. For a copy of the warranty conditions and limitations please get in touch