DOOR HANDLING AND FINISHING GUIDE

Wood is a natural product and is a hygroscopic material. This means that wood, in conditions of high humidity, readily absorbs water vapor from the air and in low humidity, vice versa. A QUOTE FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK INSTITUTE IN ARLINGTON VIRGINIA: *"Subsequent dimensional change in wood is and always has been an inherent natural property of wood... These changes cannot be the responsibility of the manufacturer or products made from it." And: "Responsibility for dimensional change problems in wood products resulting from improper relative humidity exposure during site storage and installation rests with the contractor.*

Square One Building Products only supplies doors in a bare wood or primed state and does not offer a finished product from the factory. Thus we cannot warrant the performance of any finish or finish material applied by others. It is important that you consult your finish supplier and follow their instructions. We offer the following recommendations as a guide.

HANDLING and INSTALLATION:

Immediately after receipt of your order, inspect each door for any damage or defects.
NOTIFY YOUR DEALER PROMPTLY OF ANY PROBLEM.
Handle all doors with clean gloves and equipment. Damage caused by handling is not considered a factory defect and is not covered under your warranty.
When moving the doors, avoid dragging the doors across one another or against another surface. Always use two people to lift and move the doors. Avoid leaning the door – They must be stored flat.
Keep the doors covered to maintain cleanliness but remember to allow air circulation.
THE DOORS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ABNORMAL OR EXTREME CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE OR HUMIDITY LEVELS. Avoid sudden temperature changes, such as forced heat to dry out building or storage in a building before it is enclosed.
Deliver the doors to the building only after plaster and concrete is dry.
Allow doors at least 48 hours to adjust to the prevailing humidity (become acclimatized) before hanging. Do not expose doors to humidity levels higher than 65%RH, lower than 30%RH, to temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or to direct sunlight.
Hang doors with adequate clearance to allow for some swelling in damp weather.
Be sure all jambs and stops are set perfectly square and plumb
The width of the door may be trimmed no more than 1/4" on either side. The height may be trimmed 2" from the bottom rail.
Wood panels "float." Use a hammer and wooden block to adjust the panels if necessary before installation. Be careful not to damage the surface of the wood.
Use 3 hinges on doors of 7' in height or less. Use 4 hinges on doors over 7' in height.

SQUARE ONE
BUILDING PRODUCTS

FINISHING RAW/UNFINISHED DOORS:

Raw pine wood easily absorbs moisture. Using water-based paints or stains will void your warranty as these tend to raise the grain and/or cause the veneer to bubble from the surface. Raw pine doors are for light colored stains or a clear coat. Should you wish to paint your doors, they are offered with a factory prime coat for painting. For staining, a solvent based sealer and stain should be used.

The door should first be fitted and hung in its frame and drilled for all hardware. Then, prior to finishing, the door should be removed from the frame and stripped of all hardware and the finish applied with the door laid flat.
Prior to finishing, all pine doors must be sanded to remove handling marks, labels, and surface imperfections. Sanding should be done in a progressive manner beginning with 80 grit and finishing with 220 grit sandpaper. After sanding, remove all dust and wood particles. Do not use caustic or abrasive cleaners as these can react negatively with the wood.

High gloss finishes and dark stains are not recommended for soft woods. Dark stains will often look blotchy and uneven when applied to a soft wood like pine. A clear coat finish is recommended. If darker stains are used against our recommendation, additional sanding and sealing will be required. Regardless of the finish being applied, a solvent based washcoat or sealer MUST be used on our pine doors. This will help create a more even appearance and lessen the chance of raising the grain of the wood and/or a blotchy appearance. Water based sealers; stains and paint have more of a tendency to raise the woods grain/veneers and should be avoided. Consult your finish supplier for more information.

All finish products should be from the same manufacturer and applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and MUST be applied to all six sides of the door. If you are painting your doors, we strongly recommend using a factory primed door. Should you choose to paint your raw pine door against our recommendation, you must use two light coats of solvent-based primer, allowing proper time to dry completely between coats, followed by at least two light coats of solvent-based enamel with proper drying time between each coat. After finishing your Square One door, it should be maintained just like your fine wood furniture. It should be kept clean and dust free, not subjected to unusually large swings in temperature or humidity and any scratches or scars in the surface should be immediately repaired.

FINISHING PRIMED DOORS:

The door should first be fitted and hung in its frame and drilled for all hardware. Then, prior to finishing, the door should be removed from the frame and stripped of all hardware so the finish can be applied with the door laid flat.

The doors are factory primed with an ultra-high-quality primer and have a gloss finish. Prior to finishing, remove all handling marks, labels, surface imperfections and sheen with a light sanding, by hand, using 400 grit sandpaper or a fine grade steel wool. Carefully remove all dust from the door surface.

Your finish should be applied in multiple light coats with appropriate drying time between each coat. Carefully follow the manufacturers instructions for drying time between coats.