



505-873-1432
autumnwood.com

All AutumnWOOD doors must be properly sealed on all six sides of the door within 14 days of receipt. Because your door is made from solid wood and is unfinished, it will be affected by the climate around it. Until it is properly sealed, the wood will absorb moisture from its environment and is subject to panel expansion or contraction. Full warranty details can be found at our website at autumnwood.com or call 800-760-1582.

These suggestions are based upon our knowledge of what works for our customers across the country. If you have alternative thoughts on what you wish to use, feel free to call us or email us BEFORE attempting that product. We have been working with solid wood since 1974 and have experienced many products that our customers have used. For example, many people want to use just a Linseed or Tung oil product only. Regardless of what past experience you may have had with these products, their use does not seal the door – only oil the surface temporarily. Use of these products on interior doors must be maintained – perhaps as often as monthly or quarterly. Sealing the door correctly should give you years of maintenance free use.

All AutumnWOOD doors are stain-grade and are not meant to be painted. Painting the door voids all factory warranties. Painting the door does not allow the panels to float and may cause adverse conditions up to and including the failure of the door's structure.

If you insist on painting an AutumnWOOD Door anyway – knowing that it will not be warranted - please contact the factory at 800-760-1582 for some painting suggestions.

Interior Door Staining and Sealing Suggestions

Recommended Items to have on-hand:

- 220 grit Sandpaper or Sanding Sponge
- 0000 Steel Wool
- Quality Sealer (Satin or Matte finish – NOT Gloss or Semi-Gloss)
- Paintbrushes to apply sealer (follow sealer instructions)
- Sawhorses or other methods to allow you to seal all sides of the doors
- Clean, lint-free rags
- Stain (if required)
- Rags or Paintbrushes to apply stain (see stain instructions)

The first step is to determine if you want to stain the wood. Staining adds color to the wood and to the grain of the wood based upon the stain color you choose. Keep in mind that different woods take the stain colors differently. It is best to test on the outside side of a prehung door's jamb or on scrap wood before staining your door. Oil based stains penetrate the woods best. With the environmental and personal issues surrounding petroleum products, you may only find water based stains. Again, test to see which you prefer. Follow the instructions from the stain manufacturer as to the best method of applying their product.

Wood conditioners are gaining popularity because they can even out the porosity of the wood which can deliver a more consistent stain color throughout the door. You must follow the instructions to get the best results and again, test to make sure you like the results.

All AutumnWOOD Doors are hand sanded at the factory to a 120 grit finish. All AutumnWOOD Doors may require some finish sanding prior to finishing and sealing your door due to shipping and handling. Minor scratches can be simply sanded out. Dings or indentations may be raised by putting a damp cloth over the indentation and using a steamer or a steam iron over the cloth to raise the grains. Deep scratches or penetrations can be filled using a wood putty.

During the handling and hanging process, your door may have dirt, fingerprints or other blemishes that need to be sanded off prior to finishing. We suggest using 220 grit sandpaper before applying any stain or sealer. Additionally, the application of conditioners or stains will often raise the grain of the wood. They can make it feel fuzzy to the touch. This should be sanded off using the 220 grit sandpaper as well. You want a pristine surface before you seal the door.

AutumnWOOD Interior doors must be properly sealed regardless of whether or not stain was used. There are many sealers available including lacquers, urethanes, and varnishes. Check with your local paint department to see what they suggest for your area and wood species. Sealers come in different sheens; we suggest a 'Matte' or 'Satin' finish which gives the wood a more natural appearance. Gloss or Semi-Gloss sheens tend to make the wood appear fake or like plastic.

All hardware must be removed from the door prior to sealing. This includes doorknobs/levers and hinges.

Follow the instructions on the sealer for best results. You should apply at least two coats of a sealer to ALL SIX SIDES OF THE DOOR. People tend to forget to seal the top and bottom edges of the doors. Allow plenty of time for the sealer to dry before applying the next coat or before flipping the door. The end grain of the wood will be exposed on the top and bottom edges of the door. End grain tends to absorb the sealer quickly and you can go heavy on the sealer on the end grain during the application process.

Be careful to brush out drips and over application areas like corners BEFORE the sealer dries as you will not be able to remove this later.

After a coat has dried and BEFORE applying the next coat of sealer, we suggest using '0000' Steel Wool to smooth out any dried bubbles or imperfections in the sealer coat. After using steel wool, use a clean, lint-free cloth to wipe any dust from the door surfaces prior to applying the next coat. If you have an air compressor, you can use it to blow off any dust from the Steel Wool but be careful not to blow the dust onto another surface that is wet!

For doors with floating wood panels we suggest using a razor blade to score the perimeter of the panel. You should exercise safe handling with all blades. A sharp blade will score more cleanly and you should plan on using several blades per side, per door.

Once you have at least two dry coats on all six sides of the door, you can attach hardware and prehang or store the doors. Doors which are subject to more adverse conditions like a bathroom door with a shower or a laundry room may be best with a third coat of sealer.

If you are going to store the doors, the best method is leaving them flat, not leaning against a wall. Although plastic or tarps can help protect the sealed doors from precipitation, sometimes something wrapped will trap moisture in or allow sweating which can cause other damage to the finish. Allowing proper air circulation is the best way to prevent damage.

Do not store doors on concrete unless you have spread a tarp or moisture barrier first. Concrete can allow minerals to leach into the wood, even after being sealed. A good method is to lay out some 2 x 4's across the floor, cover them with a tarp and then lay the doors flat onto the 2 x 4's. Stack the doors from largest on the bottom to smallest on top. Towels or foam wrap in between doors can help protect molding or carved surfaces. Use weights or stacks of books on the four corners of the stack and in the middle to minimize any warpage.

Interior doors typically do not need to be refinished unless the door is subjected to extreme conditions such as humidity from a bathroom or direct sunlight. You should inspect your doors annually for damage to the sealer. If you notice pits, cracks, or discoloration you should reseal your door as soon as possible. Normal cleaning methods should include dusting and wiping the surface with non-abrasive, non-chemical cleaners.

You should write down the name and colors of all of the products that you used on your doors in case you ever need to match the process in the future. Unused products should be labeled and stored safely.

Sometimes a panel may shrink which may expose some unfinished portions of a panel. You can simply refinish this area with the stored product. Often times a panel will expand again, hiding that portion of the panel. Seasonal panel movement is normal and is not cause for alarm.

Your doors are made from solid wood and are repairable. Damage or even routine maintenance can involve deep sanding without ever worrying about sanding through a veneer as with other doors. Damage cause from excessive use, pets, or children can usually be repaired using powered sanders and then properly resealing the door. Often this means restaining or resealing the whole face of a door as it's difficult to color match just one area – but this is much less expensive than replacing a whole door!

With minimal upkeep, routine inspection, and regular resealing before damage occurs – your solid wood, AutumnWOOD Doors should last lifetimes and become an added value to your home.