

Wood Doors Care & Maintenance

Most people choose a wood entry door because of wood's natural beauty and charm. Wood doors come in a wide variety of choices, from traditional mahogany and oak to a more rustic look with knotty alder or pine. Wood doors complement almost any style of architecture as well. They provide adequate durability, insulation and security, as well as reducing noise. Wood is an easy material to work with and can be customized to your specific needs.

Wood doors should be sealed before or immediately after being installed. A properly maintained wood door will increase curb appeal, as well as market value.

Your wood entryway door needs an inspection of all six sides at least annually. Wood doors that are not protected by an overhang will need more frequent inspections due to exposure to weather impacts, such as moisture, blowing dirt and sand and sunlight.

Basic cleaning of your stained wood front door includes:

Brush off all surfaces with a dust brush or dry rag

For stained doors, use a wood polish to bring out that beautiful glow. We recommend a product called Oz Cream Polish made by Mohawk Finishing. Do not use any acidic products such as lemon oil.

Use a glass cleaner or mixture of vinegar and water to clean glass, being careful not to allow any to drip on the door finish.

Clean the hardware using a cloth and warm water with diluted mild soap solution.

If while inspecting your door you find: raised wood grain, indicating the finish may be failing; discoloration that may indicate moisture is getting in; cracks in the surface; and/or peeling paint or top coat, you may be looking at some restoration work. You may need to remove the door from the frame in order to get the best results. Basic wood door restoration includes:

Strip old finish using a chemical stripper. Make sure to follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer of the chemical stripper.

Prep the door for staining by sanding with a 220 grit sandpaper to remove small surface imperfections and handling marks. Always sand in the direction of the grain.

Wipe down the door surface with a tack rag to remove all dust.

Apply stain using a brush to achieve the desired color. Allow adequate time for the stain to fully dry and cure.

Apply three coats of a high quality exterior polyurethane or spar varnish with an ultraviolet inhibitor (following the manufacturer's recommendations) to all six sides, sanding lightly between coats.

Remember that wood doors exposed to harsh sunlight will need to be inspected more often than doors covered by an overhang or porch. Lighter paint and stain colors generally last longer than darker colors.