



Read all instructions thoroughly before beginning. This is a guideline for painting and finishing exterior and interior doors. JELD-WEN cannot evaluate all available paints, stains, or application requirements. Consult a paint professional or a local paint department/store for coatings best suited to the project. Select top quality finishes and follow all manufacturers' instructions.

Finish all six surfaces (both sides and edges) of the door slab, including cutouts for hardware (if hinges are installed on an interior door slab, do not remove them), as well as the frame and the brickmould or other trim to ensure proper protection from the elements. The sweep on the bottom of exterior doors needs to be sealed on both ends with exterior silicone sealant and should not be painted or stained. The sweep should not be removed as paint or stain application to the rail underneath is not recommended. Failure to finish the door slab as instructed may result in the denial of warranty claims for operational or performance problems.

### IMPORTANT!

- Steel and fiberglass door slabs **MUST** be finished within thirty (30) days of purchase.
- Factory primed wood doors (molded, flush, premium composite, stile and rail) **MUST** be finished within fourteen (14) days of purchase.
- Raw, un-primed wood doors (molded, flush, stile and rail) **MUST** be finished within SEVEN (7) days of purchase.
- Finish wood frames in the same manner as the slab.
- Vinyl components do not require finishing.
- Refinish products when the finish cracks, splits or becomes dull.

### NEEDED MATERIALS AND TOOLS

When preparing to finish doors, consider the materials and tools required for the entire project. Listed below are some common items needed to properly finish doors. Not all materials and tools will be required for every job.

#### Needed Materials and Tools:

- |                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| • Safety glasses and rubber gloves | • Denatured alcohol   | • Cheesecloth   |
| • Screwdrivers                     | • Wood block  | • Polyurethane  |
| • Power drill                      | • Masking tape  | • Stain Kit (Fiberglass Doors)  |
| • Hammer                           | • Sandpaper - 150 grit or finer (Steel and Smooth-Pro Fiberglass Doors) | • Paint or stain (see instructions for each door type for specific recommendations) |
| • Punch                            | • Sandpaper - 400 grit (Authentic Wood Doors)                           | • Paint thinner or mineral spirits (for clean up)                                   |
| • Utility knife                    | • Pre-stain conditioner if staining wood                                | • Tack cloth  |
| • Plastic putty knife              | • Clean rags  | • 0000 Steel wool   |
| • Hand block sander                |   |   |
| • Foam brush                       |   |   |
| • Paint brush                      |   |   |
| • Sprayer                          |   |   |
| • Vinegar and water                |   |   |

### BASIC FINISHING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Wear safety glasses for eye protection, and rubber gloves to prevent soiling the door with oil from hands.
- Allow doors to acclimate to local conditions for at least 24 hours before finishing.
- Remove all hardware (except hinges from an interior door slab) and mask off glass, weatherstrip, and the door sweep (on the bottom of exterior slabs).
- Finish in dust free area away from direct sunlight.
- Finishing is easier if the slab is in a horizontal, flat position on a padded surface. This is not required and the slab may be finished in any position, however, do not stand an exterior slab on the sweep (the weatherstrip on the bottom of the door) as damage may result.

- If finishing an exterior slab, seal both ends of the sweep (weatherstrip on the bottom) with an exterior grade silicone.
- If finishing a slab with a glass insert, inspect for sealant that may have squeezed out onto the glass or door. Carefully score excess sealant (do not scratch glass) with a utility knife (stainless steel blade) and remove with a plastic putty knife.
- If finishing a slab with a glass insert, follow the glass manufacturer's instructions on the glass insert frame label.
- Door must be clean and dry before finishing.
- Test your finish prior to application in a discreet location.
- Apply finish materials in multiple light coats instead of fewer heavy coats.
- If painting grained or textured doors, too many coats will diminish the wood grain texture.

### CHOOSE FINISHING MATERIALS

- If the door is exposed to direct sunlight, dark colored finishes may fade or deteriorate quickly and increase maintenance. See our Appropriate Protection document at [www.jeld-wen.com](http://www.jeld-wen.com) in the Product Support section under Care and Maintenance for more information on color choice.
- Use a good quality primer and paint, or wood sealer and stain. We recommend using one manufacturer's products to ensure compatibility. Follow all manufacturers application instructions.
- If choosing an oil or solvent based paint, consult with a paint professional on the best product (usually quick drying) for the job.
- If staining fiberglass doors, for the best results, we recommend using our Stain Kit. If not possible, use only a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain. **Note: Once Architectural fiberglass doors are stained, it is very difficult to change the color. Always test the color in an inconspicuous area to determine if the color is acceptable before staining the entire door.**
- Use only exterior solid color stains on wood surfaces exposed to sunlight because their high concentration of pigments protects wood against damage. The natural wood color and grain is obstructed, but the wood texture is retained. These stains provide minimum protection against water or dirt protection, so a polyurethane top coat must be used.
- Finish with coatings that are resistant to water, wear, heat, solvents and chemicals. Without these characteristics, the finished product may deteriorate, compromising its integrity.
- Use a topcoat containing UV inhibitor. Use exterior finishing products on all exterior surfaces as well as for interior surfaces still exposed to sunlight to provide extra protection and durability.

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JELD-WEN reserves the right to change product specifications without notice. Please check our website, [jeld-wen.com](http://jeld-wen.com), for current information.

**PREPARE THE DOOR**

If refinishing a previously finished door slab, use the following recommendations for the product you have. The achieved result will depend on the skill of the person doing the refinishing. We recommend seeking the help of a skilled professional if unsure. After preparing the previous finish, follow the finishing instructions in the following sections.

	<b>Doors that were Painted</b>	<b>Doors that were Stained</b>
<b>Steel and Smooth Pro Fiberglass</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scuff sand with 150 grit sandpaper or finer or buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even. Feather out areas where the previous finish is cracked or peeling by removing all loose material and sanding outward until the surface is uniformly level.</li> <li>2. Remove all loose debris with tack cloth (available in store paint sections) and re-prime bare areas with a good quality water-based primer appropriate for the substrate. Re-priming the entire door will provide the best surface for the new top coat.</li> </ol>	N/A
<b>Wood (Authentic Wood, Premium Composite and Molded)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scuff sand with 400 grit sandpaper or buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even. Feather out areas where the previous finish is cracked or peeling by removing all loose material and sanding outward until the surface is uniformly level.</li> <li>2. Remove all loose debris with tack cloth (available in store paint sections) and re-prime bare areas with a good quality water-based primer appropriate for the substrate. Re-priming the entire door will provide the best surface for the new top coat.</li> <li>3. Doors that were stained will need to be stripped and/or sanded to bare wood and then can be re-stained and top coated or painted.</li> </ol>	
<b>Architectural and Design Pro Fiberglass, FiberLast and Finishield Steel</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not attempt to remove the finish with paint stripper, solvents or other chemicals, instead, buff the surface of the door thoroughly with 0000 steel wool until the entire surface is dulled and even.</li> <li>2. Remove all loose debris with tack cloth (available in store paint sections).</li> <li>3. Doors that were stained can be re-top coated with clear finish or painted if a color change is desired.</li> <li>4. For Fiberglass doors, refer to the stain kit instructions for refinishing.</li> </ol>	

**PREVIOUSLY UNFINISHED PRODUCTS**

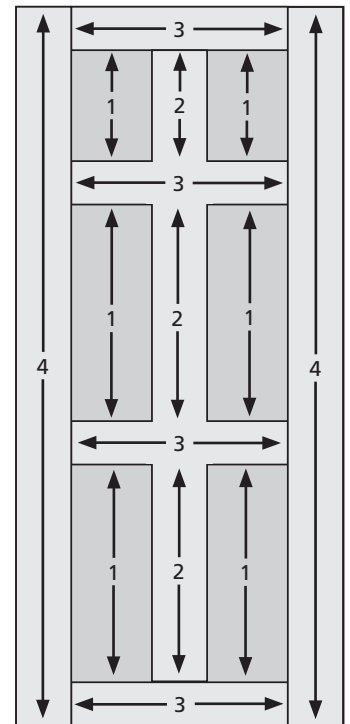
- If the door slab has a glass insert, install the provided screw covers over the screw heads around the glass insert.
- Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. **DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON ARCHITECTURAL OR DESIGN/SMOOTH PRO FIBERGLASS, OR FINISHIELD® DOORS.**

For Wood Doors Only:

- Before applying first finishing coat, lightly block sand with the grain all surfaces by hand with 400 grit sandpaper. Remove all handling marks, raise grain, scuffs, burnishes and other undesirable blemishes. For doors with wood veneers, veneers are very thin and it can be easy to sand through the veneer. Do not sand veneers any more than necessary.
- Stile and rail doors have wood panels that can float. If necessary, adjust panels before finishing by carefully realigning with a wood block and hammer.

**FINISH THE DOOR**

Use the table below to find your product and desired finish and follow the instructions in the corresponding box. The illustration to the right shows the recommended order to apply finishing materials to the door by any method except spraying. Finishing materials should be first applied, in the direction of the arrows, to the door panels (1), then to the vertical members, or stiles (2), horizontal members, or rails (3) and finally to the outer stiles (4). This method has been tested to yield the best results. You may, however, use any method that you choose.



	Doors to be Painted	Doors to be Stained
<b>Wood</b> (Authentic Wood, Premium Composite and Molded)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>2. Seal an un-primed door slab with a good quality water-based primer.</li> <li>3. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>2. For un-primed units to be stained, we recommend applying a pre-stain wood conditioner prior to staining to promote a uniform appearance and avoid sharp color contrasts or a blotchy appearance.</li> <li>3. To add color after pre-stain conditioner, use an exterior oil-based stain for the next coat.</li> <li>4. Top coats may be an oil-based or water-based clear polyurethane finish. A marine-grade varnish is recommended on all exterior doors.</li> </ol>
<b>Steel</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use denatured alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>2. Lightly scuff and sand the door face and back (to improve paint adhesion) and wipe the door clean with denatured alcohol. If the door jamb and molding are primed, clean with a damp cloth and allow to dry. Lightly sand any rough areas and re-clean.</li> <li>3. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats.</li> </ol>	N/A
<b>Grained Fiberglass</b> (Design Pro)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris with isopropyl alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. <b>DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON DESIGN PRO FIBERGLASS DOORS.</b></li> <li>2. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use isopropyl alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>2. For the best results, we recommend using our Stain Kit and included instructions. If not possible, use only a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain. Apply an even amount of stain with a foam brush or lint free cloth in the direction of the wood grain.</li> <li>3. Work the stain into the surface grain using a circular or cross grain motion before finally wiping the stain in the direction of the grain. For best results, apply stain to one section of the door at a time, starting with the embossed panels first and proceeding with the flat sections.</li> <li>4. Before stain dries completely, wipe the surface in the direction of the grain with a clean cheesecloth or rag to remove any excess stain. <b>Tip: Use a dry, soft natural bristle brush to feather out lap marks and blend stain. Blot brush on a dry cloth and feather stain until desired color is reached.</b></li> <li>5. If a darker appearance is desired, apply a second coat after the first coat dries. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply and wipe the stain with a brush or rag. After one side is stained and has completely dried, repeat staining process on the remaining unstained sides of the door.</li> <li>6. Allow stain to dry per manufacturer's recommendations (may take up to 48 hours). Spray on at least one coat of clear exterior grade polyurethane. <b>THE FIRST COAT MUST BE SPRAYED ON.</b> Additional coats may be sprayed or brushed on. Repeat process on the remaining unfinished sides of the door.</li> </ol>

	<b>Doors to be Painted</b>	<b>Doors to be Stained</b>
<b>Smooth Fiberglass (Smooth Pro)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris with isopropyl alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. <b>DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON SMOOTH PRO FIBERGLASS DOORS.</b></li> <li>2. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats.</li> </ol>	N/A
<b>Architectural Fiberglass</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use isopropyl alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly. <b>DO NOT USE SANDPAPER OR LACQUER THINNER ON ARCHITECTURAL FIBERGLASS DOORS.</b></li> <li>2. Prime the door slab with a good quality water-based primer.</li> <li>3. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 100% acrylic latex or solvent-based paint. Interior door or trim paint may be used on interior doors and interior surfaces of exterior doors. Spray applications work best. To simulate a traditional stile and rail door look when using a paintbrush, paint the panels first, then across all the rails from one edge of the door to the other. Then paint the stiles from the top of the door to the bottom. The door can also be rolled for a stipple look. For best results, apply multiple light coats.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the door with a clean, lint-free cloth, removing all dust and foreign debris. For light cleaning, a one part vinegar to ten parts water mixture can be used. For tough dirt removal, use isopropyl alcohol making sure all residue is removed by turning the cloth often while cleaning. Allow the door to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>2. For the best results, we recommend using our Stain Kit and included instructions. If not possible, use only a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous exterior gel stain. Apply an even amount of stain with a foam brush or lint free cloth in the direction of the wood grain.</li> <li>3. Work the stain into the surface grain using a circular or cross grain motion before finally wiping the stain in the direction of the grain. For best results, apply stain to one section of the door at a time, starting with the embossed panels first and proceeding with the flat sections.</li> <li>4. Before stain dries completely, wipe the surface in the direction of the grain with a clean cheesecloth or rag to remove any excess stain. <b>Tip: Use a dry, soft natural bristle brush to feather out lap marks and blend stain. Blot brush on a dry cloth and feather stain until desired color is reached.</b></li> <li>5. If a darker appearance is desired, apply a second coat after the first coat dries. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply and wipe the stain with a brush or rag. After one side is stained and has completely dried, repeat staining process on the remaining unstained sides of the door.</li> <li>6. Allow stain to dry per manufacturer's recommendations (may take up to 48 hours). Spray on at least one coat of clear exterior grade polyurethane. <b>THE FIRST COAT MUST BE SPRAYED ON.</b> Additional coats may be sprayed or brushed on. Repeat process on the remaining unfinished sides of the door.</li> </ol>

Please visit [jeld-wen.com](http://jeld-wen.com) or call us at 1-800-535-3936 for specific product information, warranty and care and maintenance information.

Thank you for choosing

