

# **Internal Doors Care, Installation & Maintenance Instructions**

## **Care of timber doors on-site**

Internal doors and internal door-sets may be supplied unfinished, with a primer applied or as fully finished doors, ready to hang. Each type needs careful handling and protection although the actual requirements vary. After delivery it is vital that doors are correctly treated to ensure that the moisture content is appropriate for the situation and that they are not physically damaged in unloading, storage and installation. Good practice avoids damage, maintains quality and saves money.

## **Storage of your new Doors**

Upon receipt of your doors, and after inspecting them, but prior to fitting, doors should be stored flat on the floor (never on edge or on end) on a level surface and be kept clear of the floor on at least three level bearers. The bearers should be longer than the doors. Doors are best left to acclimatise in the room of fitting for 2-3 days prior to hanging. Ideally store in a cool dry atmosphere.

Do not store in a newly plastered room or suddenly expose to central heating or other forms of direct heat. **NEVER** store or fit a door in a building until plastering or concrete flooring etc is finished and fully dried out. This is very important as any moisture penetration from wet plaster, cement, render or flooring can result in the door swelling and will cause problems with veneers, joints, mould or movement of the doors. Doors should be protected from dirt and damage but without restricting air circulation. Exposure to ultraviolet light can cause fading or discolouration of timber veneers.

Whenever possible store doors and door-sets in the sequence they will be needed with codes or identifying marks visible to avoid double handling. Avoid dragging them across each other in the stack. Doors which have projecting sills or have the hardware fitted must have spacers between them in the stack to avoid damage. If it is necessary to separate the doors from door-sets, each door and frame should be given an identification mark so that the correct door is returned to the frame.

Always protect your new internal doors during site operations, best practice is to treat your doors like a piece of furniture

## **Finishing your new internal doors**

### **Natural timber veneer doors**

Many of our internal veneered doors are supplied unfinished. In order to maintain this look for a long period its vital that the doors are decorated before hanging in order to seal them against moisture ingress. Oak internal doors can take a stain or paint finish. Our recommendation for a natural, clear finish would be to use a Treatex Hardwax Oil, or Osmo Door Oil as these products have been comprehensively tested by the manufacturers, and in service for many years. With the finishing topcoats applied immediately upon fitting. Again, please pay particular attention to any lock/latch cut out and all four edges as these areas are susceptible to moisture ingress as you are cutting into the core material of the door. It should also be noted that any cut-outs on are prefinished doors are required to be re-finished in the same manner.

When painting natural veneered doors we advise you follow the same instructions as given to finishing our external doors. Like external doors, it is important one primer coat of finishing treatment be applied prior to installation.

All types of veneered internal doors can be treated with an oil based stain or varnish. **We do not accept the use of ANY water based or Danish oil type finishes (with veneered doors)** as this treatment can cause bubbling and the veneers to lift. In our opinion these types of coatings do not offer sufficient protection and therefore will invalidate your guarantee.

The secret to a smooth finish is a series of light, fine sanding as the doors will have been sanded in the factory. Always work with the grain and progressively change to a finer sandpaper.

Within the scope of the appropriate finishing products advised above, please follow the finish manufacturer's guidance on the quantity of coats to apply and the recommended process.

### **Primed internal doors**

Some of our internal doors are supplied primed onto an MDF face. Pre-primed doors arrive with a base coat of primer, onto which you can apply an undercoat and top coat of paint. Your primed door may arrive looking pretty finished, but it will still need to be lightly sanded, and be painted with undercoats and top coats. The primer will provide a relatively smooth surface, covering the permeable surface of the wood. Primed doors, by their nature may need some minor repair work & sanding, for timber imperfections. The paint is required to provide extra necessary coverage against wear & tear, temperature changes, water splashes and more.

We recommend an undercoat and at least two gloss coats of paint suitable for use on wooden internal doors to seal our primed products.

### **Hanging your new internal doors**

Factory finished door frames or door linings should be fitted into preformed openings and not built in to masonry walls.

Doors should be fitted square, true and plumb and fixed in accordance with the below instructions and the project specification.

On the width where a size reduction is necessary, always take equal amounts from each side up to a maximum of the advertised lipping size minus 6mm on internals unless otherwise stated on the literature which comes with the door. Trimming allowance of fire rated internal doors vary based on fire test evidence, please contact us to discuss this prior to ordering if trimming is required.

When reducing the height you can usually take more from the bottom but please check with supplier for maximum amounts. Usually, given the top and bottom of the door is not seen after installation, up to 50mm can be removed, but this has to be done proportionately to the top and bottom rail depths, which may well expose the core material, but as long as this is properly sealed using a proprietary sealer, or wood glue, the construction of the door will not be affected – the key is sealing the cut edges professionally. Once again, trimming allowance of fire rated internal doors vary based on fire test evidence, please contact us to discuss this prior to ordering if trimming is required.

We recommend that all of our doors are hung using 1 ½ pairs of suitable hinges. Any cut edges, including where you have drilled through for the handle and latch, must be sealed with a proprietary sealer.