



This is a guideline for painting and finishing wood surfaces on windows and patio doors. Consult a paint professional for specific “how-to” instructions. It is necessary to paint and/or finish all exposed wood surfaces on your windows or patio doors as soon as possible for protection against the elements.

Do-It-Yourself

Technician



IMPORTANT INFORMATION & GLOSSARY

INTRODUCTION

Finishing and refinishing is necessary because by nature, wood is hygroscopic. It responds to changes in the levels of moisture around it. Wood in water or high humidity will absorb moisture and swell. Wet wood placed in a dry environment will release moisture and shrink.

Wood is porous. Painting and finishing seals porous wood surfaces and minimizes moisture absorption and exposure to the air reducing the danger of wood decay. A finished wood surface is less susceptible to debris and is easier to clean.

Finishing and painting maintains, protects and enhances the beauty of the product.

Proper painting or finishing maintains warranty coverage (subject to the length/terms of the warranty).

During manufacturing of our primed wood products, we apply a waterborne, modified acrylic primer formulated for good paint film adhesion. This primer also provides some wood protection during shipping, handling and installation.

If storing before installation, place in a dry, well-ventilated, protected area. Do not expose to rain, extreme humidity and/or heat.

If finishing our primed product surfaces more than 20 days after delivery (after 20 days, primers rapidly lose the ability of optimal adhesion to the top coat), clean with mild soap and water, soft bristle brush, and rinse and dry thoroughly. Lightly sand the surface and remove all dust with a vacuum or tack cloth. Apply an additional coat of primer designed for use with the final top coat.

FINISHING AURALAST® WOOD

AuraLast wood is finished no differently than any other wood, with one exception:

JELD-WEN does not recommend the use of *water-based dye stains*. One of the protective features of AuraLast wood is water repellency. As a result, it is difficult to achieve satisfactory results when using water-based dye stains because the dye cannot penetrate the wood. Water-based pigment stains, however, will produce acceptable results. AuraLast wood accepts any high quality paint.

GLOSSARY

Double-hung

A window with two sashes, upper and lower, that slide vertically past each other.

Jamb liner

A removable balance system that fits into the side jamb.

Sash

An assembly comprised of stiles (vertical pieces), rails (horizontal pieces) and the window's glass.

Sealant

An adhesive agent used to fill joints and gaps to create a protective seal against the elements.

Tack cloth

A piece of cheesecloth or other material treated to have a sticky surface that easily picks up dust.

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1

SELECT MATERIALS AND FINISHING PRODUCTS

When preparing to finish or refinish wood products, consider the tools and materials you will need for the entire project. Listed below are some common painting/finishing product types to consider. Specific tools or materials may vary. Before beginning, consult your local paint professional to complete your list.

Note! Areas with extreme climates and corrosive environments (coastal and humid areas) require specially designed products that offer extra protection. Avoid using shellac, lacquer or oil and wiping varnish finishes on exterior surfaces. They do not meet the resistance characteristics needed for window and patio door products.

MATERIALS

- Finishing products (paint, stain, clear coat, sealer, etc)
- Solvents (for oil-based products)
- Soap & water (for latex)
- Brushes (small and large)
- Putty knife
- Wire brush
- Sanding block
- Sandpaper (medium and fine)
- Rubber gloves
- Safety equipment (glasses, goggles, etc)
- Drop-cloth
- Plenty of rags
- Tack cloth
- Wood filler
- High quality sealant
- Other materials recommended by paint/finish manufacturer

FINISHING AND PAINTING SAFETY

- Always read, understand and follow all paint/finish manufacturers' labels before beginning.
- Ensure proper ventilation.
- Wear necessary protective gear (respirator, gloves, clothing, goggles, etc.) suggested by paint/ finish manufacturer.
- Immediately clean spills.
- Properly dispose of unused paint/finish products per federal, state and local environmental protection rules.

SPECIAL NOTE ON VENEERED PARTS

Many interior surfaces are not solid wood, but covered with a veneer, or thin piece of wood. Veneered parts are engineered for enhanced strength, warp-resistance and surface consistency when accepting paint or stain. Many times it will not be obvious if a part is veneered or not. Because of the delicate nature of veneer, all parts of the wood window should be treated as though they are veneered. Finishing veneered products is the same as finishing solid wood except it is possible to sand through the veneer. Components receive a factory finish and should not require further sanding. If light sanding is necessary, use closed grit 240 or finer.

FINISHING PRODUCTS

There are many different options for painting or staining. Visit a local paint store for recommendations on types, colors, sheens and application methods. Many paint stores offer color sample cards you may take home.

- **Primers:**
 - Primers seal wood surfaces and promote adhesion. Without primer, a painted wood surface may look flat in porous areas.
 - Some paint manufacturers offer low temperature primers that may be applied in temperatures below 50°.
 - Select primer appropriate for the top coat.
- **Paints:**
 - Use paint designed for the application (exterior/interior).
 - Avoid dark-colored paints. They absorb heat from the sun and may crack more easily, resulting in increased maintenance.
- **Stains and clear finishes:**
 - Stains add and enhance color.
 - Use only solid color stains on exterior surfaces because they are made with a high concentration of pigments and protect wood against damage from ultraviolet radiation. They will obscure the natural wood color and grain, but still retain the beautiful wood texture.
 - Select a clear finish with resistance to water and water-vapor exchange, wear, heat, solvents, and chemicals. Without these characteristics, the finished product may deteriorate, compromising its integrity.
 - Cover stain with a clear topcoat containing UV absorbers for exterior applications. Exterior finishing products provide extra protection and durability for interior surfaces still exposed to sunlight.

PLEASE NOTE! We do not recommend clear finishes for **exterior** wood surfaces because of the need for extensive annual inspections and maintenance to repair/refinish. Clear finish application to **exterior** wood surfaces is at the owner's own risk and may result in the denial of a product warranty claim.

2

PREPARE TO FINISH

1. Observe weather conditions.
 - Do not attempt painting/finishing in wet weather or any extreme environmental conditions.
 - The normal temperature range recommended by paint manufacturers is 50°-85°. After finish application, the temperature should not drop below the minimum for at least four hours. Some products have a wider temperature range.
 - The relative humidity should be below 85%. Relative humidity can be measured with a hygrometer, found at a local hardware store or home center.
 - Paint/finish in a location that is well lit, but not in direct sunlight and allows plenty of ventilation.
2. Check wood moisture content.
 - Do not begin project if wood moisture content exceeds 16%. Check using a hand-held moisture meter (should be available at local hardware, home improvement or paint store) or gently sand the surface with fine grit sandpaper. Fine, fluffy

or powder-like dust means the wood is dry, but if the sandpaper fills with wood residue, the wood is too wet.

3. Prepare enough material to complete the project.

PREPARE DOUBLE-HUNG SASH

On *double-hung** windows, the moving *sash stile** edges that come in contact with the *jamb liners** need to be sealed, not painted. The sealer should adequately seal the sash and not cause operational problems. High-quality sealer products include Watco® Exterior Wood Finish, MinWax® ClearShield™ or other equivalent product. Minimize the film thickness on the sash edge. Sash stile edges that have weatherstrip and do not come in contact with the side jamb or jamb liner may be painted the same as the rest of the window.

3

PREPARE WOOD SURFACE

Proper wood surface preparation is essential before finishing. Clear coat refinishing may vary depending on the type of finish previously used. Mildew stains must be removed before finishing or refinishing. Seek professional help if unsure. This section covers wood preparation for exterior and interior, new and previously finished wood surfaces.

1. Remove (double-hung, single-hung, slider) or open (casement, awning, basement) sash before finishing.
2. Remove or protect hardware and other non-wood items from finishing and/or damage.
3. Remove all loose, peeling, flaking, or scaling paint without gouging the wood surface.
4. Fill all holes, gouges, scratches, dents (see tip below), or other imperfections with wood putty.

Note! Water-based putty can react with screws, nails and staples and cause rust stains on the wood surface.

TIP: Use the following method to steam away dents (if wood fibers are still intact):

- a. Place a drop or two of water on the dent.
- b. Let soak.
- c. Cover with a wet cloth.

- d. Heat with tip of a warm iron.
- e. Let dry thoroughly.
5. Sand smooth (with the grain) any surface roughness with a cork, felt or rubber-backed sanding block to avoid uneven depressions in the wood. Sand with the folded edge of the sandpaper facing the direction of travel (an open edge is more likely to catch under a sliver of wood and lift it).
6. Apply sufficient *sealant**/caulk to joints where wood parts come together to prevent moisture access (100% silicone if left exposed, 100% polyurethane if painted).
7. Thoroughly remove dust from wood surface (finish will not adhere properly to unclean surface) with a vacuum, tack cloth or damp rag. If necessary, use paint thinner to clean oil, wax or grease. Do not use compressed air because moisture in air could cause water spotting.

4

FINISH WOOD WINDOW OR PATIO DOOR

Apply finish applications in multiple light coats. Apply at least two top coats of paint over primer, or high grade clear coat over stain. Apply material evenly, and follow label instructions for time between coats. Consult a local paint professional when staining pine and other soft woods for methods to minimize uneven stain appearance, or for any other finishing problems.

1. IF painting, apply primer (two coats for damaged areas) to all exposed wood surfaces (including top and bottom of sash) and let dry thoroughly. IF staining, apply stain as desired. More stain will result in a darker finish, less stain in a lighter finish.
2. After primer/stain is dry, apply top coats to all exposed wood surfaces.
3. After the last top coat is completely dry, reinstall hardware, weatherstrip, etc. Operational problems may occur if the top coat is not thoroughly dry.
4. Reinstall sash in window.

5**CARE FOR WOOD PRODUCTS****INSPECTION**

Inspect the condition of the exterior and interior finish at least twice a year (monthly in coastal areas). Horizontal surfaces are especially susceptible to damage because of exposure to the sun and water pooling on the exterior, and condensation "run-off" on the interior.

Note! If condensation is a regular or recurring problem, take steps to eliminate it. Visit our website at www.jeld-wen.com/ resources for more information on condensation. For persistent condensation problems, consult a heating/air conditioning professional.

Refinish as needed to maintain the protective integrity of the finish.

WOOD DECAY

Wood decay is a naturally occurring form of organic decomposition. Fungal spores are found almost everywhere and are easily spread by the wind. When wood is exposed to moisture, the fungal spores begin to develop and spread by sending out root-like feelers. These feelers produce enzymes that break down the wood. The result is wood decay (shown in the illustration). If caught in the early stages of development, wood decay is treatable and the damage can be repaired. For any wood surfaces with wood decay, contact a window service professional or the manufacturer for repair or replacement advice.

**EXTERIOR METAL CLAD SURFACES**

Metal clad exterior surfaces on windows and patio doors do not require painting or finishing, however, we do offer paint in various colors to match clad colors for touching up scratches etc. Exterior metal clad surfaces are subject to color-fading from ultraviolet radiation. If your cladding has faded, the touch-up color may not match the clad color. If so, apply a coat of good quality car wax to the entire surface after the touch-up paint has completely cured. Contact us or your supplier for more information.

CONTACT US

For questions, feel free to contact us by phone or email.

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