FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS
for Interior & Exterior Door Slabs & Systems (JCM004)

Read all instructions thoroughly before beginning. This is a guideline for painting and finishing exterior and interior doors. JELD-WEN can’t 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 sides (both sides and edges) of the door slab, including cutouts for hardware, as well as the frame and the brickmould or other trim in order to ensure proper protection from the elements. Failure to finish the door slab on all six sides may result in the denial of warranty claims for operational or performance problems.

IMPORTANT!

• Steel & Fiberglass Door Slabs are factory primed but MUST be finished within thirty (30) days of installation.
• Factory primed wood doors MUST be finished within fourteen (14) days of installation.
• Raw, unprimed wood doors MUST be finished within SEVEN (7) days of installation.
• Finish wood frames in the same manner as the slab.
• Vinyl components do not require finishing.

NEEDED MATERIALS & 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:**

- Vinegar and water
- Denatured alcohol
- Wood Block
- Masking tape
- Sandpaper - 220 grit or finer
- Pre-stain conditioner if staining wood
- Clean rags
- Cheesecloth
- Polyurethane
- Paint or Stain (see instructions for each door type for specific recommendations)
- Paint thinner or mineral spirits (for clean up)

**Needed Tools:**

- Safety Glasses and rubber gloves
- Screwdrivers
- Power Drill
- Hammer
- Punch
- Utility knife
- Plastic putty knife
- Hand block sander
- Foam Brush
- Paint brush
- Sprayer

**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.
- Before finishing pre-hung systems, remove the slab from the frame and remove hardware. For door slabs, first hang the slab then remove to finish properly.
- 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 the slab on the sweep (the weatherstrip on the bottom of the door) as damage my result.
- Remove hardware and mask off glass, weatherstrip, and the door sweep.
- 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 and remove with a plastic putty knife.
- Wood doors with glass require the finish to flow from wood slightly onto glass. This protects the glazing compound and prevents water leakage.
- 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**

1. 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/resources in care & maintenance for more information on color choice.
2. 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.
3. Use only 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.
4. We recommend only using a professional quality, heavy body or highly viscous gel stain on Fiberglass and FiberLast™ doors.
5. Finish with coatings that are resistant to water, wear, heat, solvents and chemicals. Without these characteristics, the finished product may deteriorate, compromising its integrity.
6. Use a topcoat containing UV inhibitor. Exterior finishing products provide extra protection and durability for interior surfaces still exposed to sunlight.
**Prepare the Door**

- 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 FIBERGLASS, FIBERLAST OR FINISHIELD® DOORS.**

**For Wood Doors Only:**

- Before applying first finishing coat, lightly block sand with the grain all surfaces by hand with 220 grit sandpaper or finer. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doors to be Painted</th>
<th>Doors to be Stained</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wood</strong> (Authentic Wood Custom Carved and Molded)</td>
<td><strong>Steel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Seal an unprimed door slab with a good quality water-based primer.</td>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based acrylic latex or solvent-based paint.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>1. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>2. To add color after pre-stain conditioner, use an oil based stain for the next coat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. 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.</td>
<td>3. Top coats may be an oil-based or water based clear polyurethane finish. A marine-grade varnish is recommended on all exterior doors.</td>
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### Doors to be Painted

**Finishshield Steel, Grained Fiberglass and FiberLast**

Paint all sides of the door, jamb and molding with a good-quality exterior water-based 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.

### Doors to be Stained

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<th>Finishshield Steel, Grained Fiberglass and FiberLast</th>
<th>Smooth Fiberglass</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Apply an even amount of good quality solvent-based stain, or a heavy body (highly viscous) gel stain with a foam brush or lint free cloth in the direction of the wood grain.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Before stain dries completely, wipe the surface in the direction of the grain with a clean cheesecloth or rag to remove any excess stain. 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. 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.</td>
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<td>5. Allow stain to dry per manufacturer’s recommendations. Spray on at least one coat of clear exterior grade polyurethane. THE FIRST COAT MUST BE SPRAYED ON. Additional coats may be sprayed or brushed on. Repeat process on the remaining unfinished sides of the door.</td>
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Please visit jeld-wen.com/resources or call us at 1-800-535-3936 for specific product information, warranty and care and maintenance information.

Thank you for choosing JELD-WEN WINDOWS & DOORS