



PRODUCT CARE GUIDE

Timber Doors



INSTALLATION and On Site Care

What should I do with my door once I've received it?

- Your door must always be stored in a weather-proof building, with no exposure to moisture. The door must be flat and cannot rest on any of its edges to prevent warping.

Do I need an awning/weather shield on an external door?

- Yes, entrance doors must be installed in weather protected openings to reduce the effects of weather. The Spartan Doors warranty will not cover doors that are fully exposed to the weather.
- You should avoid getting doors wet, even after finishing. Otherwise rot, warp and other moisture related issues can arise.

How do I clean my door?

- Simply wipe your door with a damp cloth. Avoid the use of harsh chemicals or detergents as this may remove any finishes and damage the wood.
- Do not hose your door or get your door wet.

What sort of door furniture/hardware can be used?

- Use a door hardware supplier who stocks quality door furnishings. In the case of fire doors, ensure the furniture has the required fire rating. Make sure your door furniture is appropriate for external or internal applications. Always follow the door furniture manufacturer's instructions for installation and fitting.

Where do I put the door furniture and hardware?

- Always understand how your door has been constructed before attempting to fit it with furniture or hardware, because some door designs can only have hardware (especially locks) installed in a specific location.
- The structural strength must not be affected when fitting the door, the installation of hardware or cutting and altering the door for any reason.

What is a lock block/lock plate and what does it do?

- Hollow-core and semi-solid doors sometimes contain a lock block, which is a piece of timber fixed inside the door and is required to keep the handle and door furniture in place. Fire doors have lock plates, which gives strength to the fireproof core where the lock is fixed.
- The position of the lock block/lock plate, as well as any other reinforcing components needs to be known prior to hanging the door and installing the door hardware.

How do I tell where the lock block is positioned?

- To help indicate which side of the door the lock block is positioned, a lock block label/lock plate is stamped on that side. This label is always on the edge.
- The centre of the lock block is positioned 1025mm from the bottom of the door.

What size is the lock block?

- The lock block/lock plate will cover door furniture back set up to 70mm. An door lock block is 400mm in height.

How much can I trim/plane off my door?

- **Fire doors**
 - 4mm off top and bottom rails; 4mm off each stile
- **Flush doors**
 - 5mm off top and bottom rails; 5mm off each stile
- **Routed doors**
 - 5mm off top and bottom rails; 5mm off each stile
- **Joinery doors**
 - 5mm off top and bottom rails; 5mm off each stile

What do I do about the breather hole at the top of my door?

- Leave it unblocked, even after painting. The hole is required to allow the door to breath with thermal expansion and contraction.

FINISHING: Paint, Stain, Seal

Do I need to do anything after I've hung my door?

- Yes, inspect your door regularly for any paint damage or moisture effects and look for possible damage around vision panels and joints.
- Completely re-finish your door once paint or sealers deteriorate.
- Use of different colours on either side of the door (exterior/interior) will cause uneven heat/moisture absorption. The finishing paint or stain should be the same colour on all six sides, **using different colours may cause the door to warping to occur.**

Do I need to finish my wooden door?

- Yes, all Spartan Doors wooden doors are supplied unfinished and need to be finished - painted, stained or otherwise sealed, otherwise the warranty may be void.
- Timber is a product that is affected by moisture changes. This is because it is a natural material. This change in moisture can cause the timber to warp, crack or even rot. Unprotected timber will deteriorate if exposed to atmospheric change over time.
- All timber products should be painted, stained, or otherwise sealed before being installed to help protect them, whether they are being used internally or externally.

What should I finish?

- All surfaces - two faces and four edges - of the door should be painted before hanging - this includes behind the hinges and lock. The top and bottom edges are also very important.

How many coats should I give the door?

- Always follow the paint manufacturer's instructions on how to finish the doors.
- All sides of the door need to receive the same number of coats as the faces.

- Tests have shown that doors with the right number of coats of paint or finish outlast and perform better than those not finished properly.

Should I sand my door before finishing?

- Always follow the paint manufacturers instructions, but they will generally advise to give timber a light sand before finishing - which is okay.
- Make sure the correct sandpaper is used. Never use steel wool or any sort of metal scourers.
- Only sand in the direction of the grain.

Can I paint my exterior doors different colours on the inside and outside?

- No, using different colours on the exterior and interior will cause uneven heat / moisture absorption and distribution, particularly for doors in exposed locations. This may cause warp.

Can I paint my door in a high gloss finish?

- Doors with a < 4.75mm skin should be painted with flat, semi gloss or satin style finishes.
- Doors with a >= 4.75mm pre-primed skin can be painted with gloss or high gloss style finishes.

Is it normal to see variations in colour and texture with wooden faced doors?

- Yes, woods can have significant variation in colour and grain patterns and textures. These are unavoidable and are part of the natural beauty of timber; and are not considered a defect.

Paint colour

- Use light reflective colours for doors exposed to sunlight, as dark colours absorb light and heat. Using dark colours will cause a drying effect on the doors and could cause the doors to warp. Your paint manufacturer should be able to advise you of the light reflective value (LRV) for a selected colour.

- The top coat must be done with a light coloured (high LRV) paint. The higher the LRV the less heat the substrate will absorb and the longer the expected life of the paint finish. Black has a very low LRV, white has a much higher LRV (about 20 times more than black). Choosing paint colours with a higher LRV is the safest choice.

We recommend a LRV of at least 50.

- Use of different colours on either side of the door (exterior/interior) will cause uneven heat/moisture absorption. The finishing paint or stain should be the same colour on all six sides, **using different colours may cause the door to warping to occur.**

GENERAL Information

What is 'show through'?

- Show through is when the internal construction of the door has left a slight impression on the skin of the door. Generally this will be doors with a MDF skin and will only be seen at certain angles or when high gloss paints are used. This is normal and not a defect.

What is warp?

- Warp refers to the distortion within the door itself and not its relationship to jambs or the frame.
- As per Australian Standard AS2688, the below shows the amount of warp that is not considered a defect given a door size:
Up to 2150mm x 1020mm - $\leq 4\text{mm}$
Between 2150mm x 1020mm and 2400mm x 1020mm - $\leq 6\text{mm}$
Over 2440mm x 1200mm - not covered under the Australian Standard AS2688 or Spartan Warranty for warp.
- Distortion can be determined by applying a straight-edge to the concave face of the door.

What causes warp?

- Warp can be caused by a number of factors, but generally warp is caused by improper storage, heat or adverse moisture conditions. Incorrect paint choice or paint quality can also cause the door to warp.

Is warp covered by the warranty?

- Warp is not covered if the door uses uneven faces or veneer skins.
- It is the responsibility of the installer and home-owner to ensure that the finishing advice in this document has been adhered to.
Failure to follow any of these instructions will void the warranty. Spartan Doors does not accept responsibility for warp when the moisture content of the timber falls below 10% or exceeds 14%. This would indicate uneven or extreme heating and/or high levels of moisture.
- If excessive warping occurs, seek advice promptly to help solve the problem.

This guide provides advice and important information that will help keep your Spartan Timber Door looking smart and functioning correctly for many years, while maintaining warranty coverage.

Regular inspections and minor maintenance are the best ways to keep your doors in good condition.

We offer extended warranties on all of our products.

Failure to adhere to advice in this document could void the warranty. For information on specific warranty periods, refer to the Spartan Doors Standard Warranty Certificate.



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