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BarnDoorz.com Wood Door Finishing Guidelines: for Birch or Knotty Alder doors

We suggest that you select a quality wood stain and follow all safety and application instructions when finishing your birch wood or Knotty Alder wood door. BarnDoorz can not evaluate all the different commercially-available brands and finish processes that are available...but we have had great results with well-know brands such as Minwax, Behr, Sherwin Williams, and Cabot.

We use water-based stains at the BarnDoorz factory, but you may use either a water based stain system or a oil based or solvent based stain system. Whichever you select be sure to follow all manufacturers suggestions for safety and application.

Here are some suggestions you may wish to consider:

All edge surfaces and front and back surfaces must be finished correctly. Be sure to confirm that the top, bottom, and side edges of the door are finished correctly after the door is trimmed for installation.

Upon Receipt of Door

Inspect your door thoroughly. Immediately check for “squareness” or warp. **DO NOT** cut, fit, or hang any door with any noticeable damage or defects. If any type of problem is found, notify BarnDoorz for further instructions.

Storage and Handling

- 1) Before installing, allow 24–48 hours for the door to adapt to the general humidity and temperature conditions of your area.
- 2) Doors should always be stored flat, in a clean, dry, well-ventilated room. Protect from dirt, water, and abuse. If stored for long periods, doors should be sealed with a high quality sealer or primer.
- 3) Doors should be stored in a dry area, and must not be exposed to abnormal heat, direct sunlight, direct moisture, or extreme dryness or humidity.
- 4) Deliver to your building site after the plaster and cement are completely dry. Avoid prolonged exposure to heated or air-conditioned environments prior to finishing.
- 5) If the doors are to be stored on the job site, all ends and edges must be sealed with a wood sealer in order to prevent moisture absorption.
- 6) Doors should always be handled with clean hands or while wearing clean gloves, to prevent dirt and oils from penetrating the wood grains.
- 7) Doors should be lifted and carried, not dragged in order to prevent damage to the wood surface.

Preparation for Field-finishing

- 1) Prior to finishing, insure that the building atmosphere is dried to a normal, interior relative humidity. Insure that the doors have been allowed to equalize to a stable moisture content.
- 2) Doors must be finished prior to final installation.

- 3) To assure uniform moisture exposure and dimensional control, ALL surfaces must be treated equally. This includes front and back, top, bottom, and 2 sides.
- 4) Before preparation and finishing, mount the rolling door hardware, and mount the door on the rolling track. Then remove the door and any hardware prior to finishing.
- 5) Before applying the first finishing coat, sand entire surface lightly to remove handling marks, raised grain, or other undesirable blemishes. Use 180 to 220 grit sandpaper, and always sand in the direction of the grain. Spot sanding can cause the finish to appear splotchy.
- 6) After sanding, clean the entire door with a clean cloth to remove all dust or foreign debris. (Avoid caustic or abrasive cleaners).
- 7) Where possible, the finish selection should be tested prior to complete application.
- 8) Properly finish the entire door. Coat all 6 edges (including top, bottom, sides, and face surfaces) with each application. Adequate drying time between coats must be allowed, as the door must be dry before the next finishing step.

Recommended staining and finishing steps:

- *Remove handling marks and final sanding*
- *Raw wood treated with penetrating wiping stain*
- *Repeat penetrating wiping stain if required for desired color*
- *Lite sanding if desired*
- *First coat of sanding sealer or top coat*
- *Fine sand by hand*
- *Second coat of top coat*

Paint Finish:

- 1) To paint finish your door, use a primer coat and a compatible finish coat.
- 2) Sand all surfaces between all coats of primer and finish.