

Removing the Old Finish

Before starting the process of refinishing the wood-grain fiberglass door, please keep in mind that the refinished door may not have the look and detail of the factory finished door. The quality of the refinished door will vary with the skill of the person refinishing the door. The wood-grain door can be either painted or stained.

Single and Double Prehung Doors: Remove the door slabs from the prehung frame. Remove hinges, door sweep and lockset. Use masking tape to cover lite frame (if applicable) as well as door edges.

Door Units w/ Sidelites: Remove the door slab from frame and follow instructions above. For sidelite or fixed door that cannot be removed from the frame, mask the components (jamb, sill, lite frame, sidelite base and hardware).

Note: It is very important to mask the areas mentioned above to prevent the remover from melting the composite material or removing the finish on the hardware or jambs.

Use Caution When Refinishing: Remove paint, topcoat and stain in a well ventilated area. Keep combustible paint, topcoat and stain away from heat and flame. Wear protective eyewear and stripper/remover grade gloves when using topcoat remover. Keep out of reach of children.

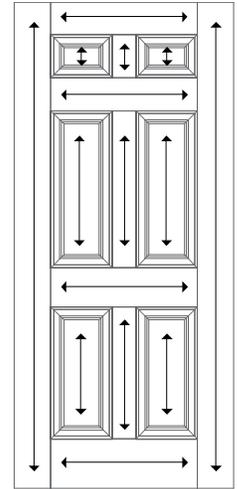


Figure 1

To remove topcoat, use Klean-strip® GAR343 (gallon size, QAR343 for quart size) Aircraft Remover or Rustoleum® Aircraft Remover. Apply the remover generously to a door one side at a time. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Let the remover sit for 15–30 minutes and scrape off the remover and finish with a plastic scraper while being careful not to gouge or mark up the door. Use a plastic stiff bristle brush in the corners and hard to reach areas. Repeat as necessary until all of the topcoat is removed. When finished, wipe with mineral spirits. Wipe again with water and a lint-free cloth and let it dry. Make sure all remover residue is removed from the door.

As to the lite frame and door edges, remove the masking tape and lightly sand while being careful not to remove the wood-grain. Use 200 or 240-grit sandpaper. Before painting or applying stain to the lite frame and door edges, wipe with water and a lint-free cloth and let dry. Do not use mineral spirits, use only water to clean the above components.

Staining / Protective Topcoat

Once the door is dry, use a paint brush to apply Minwax® Gel Stain (match closely as possible to the original color) evenly in the same direction (see Figure 1) as the wood-grain on the door. Lightly remove excess stain with a clean, dry and lint-free cloth. Let stain dry according to manufacturer's instructions. Repeat as necessary to achieve the desired look.

After stain is dry, apply a coat of clear exterior-grade urethane topcoat with UV inhibitor. A satin sheen is recommended. The coat can be either sprayed or brushed on. Apply evenly and smoothly in the same direction (see Figure 1) as the wood-grain. Let the clear coat dry according to manufacturer's directions. Lightly sand between coats with 600-grit sandpaper. Apply at least 2 to 3 coats for best result.

Painting

After the old finish on the door completely removed, cleaned and dried, use a paint brush to apply a coat of primer in the direction (see Figure 1) of the wood-grain. We recommend using white primer for white color paint and tan primer for other color paint. Let the primer dry according to manufacturer's directions and apply at least 2 coats of exterior-grade paint in the same direction (see Figure 1) as the wood-grain.

Refinish Maintenance

Stained Doors: Apply 2 coats of exterior-grade topcoat every 2-3 years or when sign of deterioration or fading is apparent.

Painted Doors: Apply a coat of exterior-grade paint as current finish shows signs of deterioration or fading.

Note that deterioration of the topcoat or paint will depend upon the level of exposure to the sun and outside elements.