

Painting and Maintenance Guidelines

For Residential Clients



It is absolutely necessary for wooden windows and doors to be finish painted on the exterior. Untreated wood is quickly damaged when exposed to rain, heat, humidity, etc. The results of exposure can be expansion (causing windows to stick), leaking, and increased susceptibility to wood rot. Finish painting and staining should be completed within two weeks of installation.

Color and Types of Paint

Choose paler colors, as very dark paint, particularly dark green and black, can cause excessive heating and cooling cycles which structurally compromise the underlying wood. Colors are ranked using a Light Reflectivity Value (LRV) with a scale that goes from 0 (absorbs all light) to 100 (reflects all light). Wooden Window recommends using finish paint colors with a reflective value greater than 18% (middle gray).

Primer helps seal the wood, preventing the encroachment of moisture, and provides a proper surface for finish paint application. Wooden Window typically applies one coat of professional grade, water-based primer in our shop. New putty (that has cured for 1 to 3 weeks) should be primed with an oil-based primer for best adhesion. Primer alone is NOT a suitable barrier against exposure.

Finish Paint must be applied to all primed surfaces. Interior surfaces require at least one finish coat with either water- or oil-based paint. Water-based paints are easiest to work with, but for high moisture environments like bathrooms, consider using an oil-based paint. Exterior surfaces require a minimum of two coats of either oil- or water-based paint (Benjamin Moore or other quality brands). Be sure to use one specifically designed for exterior use.

Stains and clear-coat treatments help protect interior stain-grade surfaces (exterior stain grade surfaces are not recommended). Wooden Window sands with 220 grit sandpaper at the factory and leaves the wood bare -- no primer is used. To protect the wood, apply a tung-oil based clear sealant or stain-bearing product. Do not leave the bare wood unprotected

Preparation

Inspect each window and door, testing operability and identifying areas that may need extra attention before painting. Inspect the glass (lites) for scratches or defects. If any operability issues or scratched lites are discovered on any product from Wooden Window, please notify us before proceeding with preparations or painting.

Glazing putty should be “skinned over,” where the surface of the putty is cured and no longer tacky to the touch. Putty skins over faster in warmer weather. If the putty has not yet set, allow 2 to 4 weeks for the glazing compound to cure -- do not touch the putty until it has skinned over. During curing, DO NOT clean the windows, apply primer or paint to the putty or expose the putty to extremes of heat, dryness or moisture.

Fill any holes, minor surface irregularities or naturally occurring openings in the grain of the wood with wood putty. Sand the area smooth with 220 grit or finer sandpaper before applying primer, clear-coat or a stain-bearing finish

Remove hardware and weather stripping so the finish can completely seal all the wood. Please be careful using tools around your windows or doors. Glass scratches easily! We strongly advise against the use of sharp tools anywhere near the lite of a sash or door.

Painting

The window or door should be clean and free of lint and dust, and the glass should be cleaned with a quality glass cleaner. Be sure and use only an oil-based primer on the glazing putty when it is skinned over and ready for painting.

Exterior paint should “kiss the glass” by 1/16th of an inch -- about the width of a pencil lead – to form a moisture barrier. We recommend against using masking tape on the glass because the paint seal may be broken when the tape is removed.

Allow finish paint to cure between coats, and lightly sand the surface with 220 or finer grit sandpaper between applications. Use a quality standard or foam brush, and DO NOT force drying by applying excessive heat to the surface.

Where to Apply Paint

Coverage In general: all exposed wood surfaces should be painted in some fashion except for the surfaces subject to friction. Therefore, the surfaces to be painted differ based on the type of window. Take care always to paint both the top and bottom.

Paint or primer should NOT be applied to the moving parts of the window (hinges, latches, springs) or weather-stripping.

Casement Windows – paint on all six sides, including under any applied hardware.



Double Hung Windows – Paint both the inside and outside, as well as the top and bottom of double hung sashes, but do not paint the sides or the jamb tracks in which they slide (a potential friction contact area). Also, take care not to get any paint on the ropes.

Doors – Doors should be painted/stained on all six sides. If the door is stain-grade wood, stain the interior but paint the exterior. We do not recommend clear-coat or stain on exterior surfaces.

Maintenance

Proper finishing and ongoing maintenance of the finish of a wooden window or door are the most important steps you can take to protect your investment. Direct sunlight or exposure to moisture will deteriorate the finish over time. Quickly address any problems you may discover, otherwise, damage to the wood may result.

Over time, small surface imperfections may appear, and doors or windows may shrink or swell slightly as they adapt to climate changes. This movement of the wood is normal and due to the natural aging process of wood windows and doors. They are not defects. To minimize these occurrences, doors, and windows should have the right finish and an adequate overhang. If your windows or doors receive much direct sunlight, you will want to check them more regularly.



1. Inspect the integrity of the finish of each window and door at least every other year, particularly for south or west exposure windows.
2. Windows or doors without sufficient overhang protection from the elements require an inspection once a year.
3. Confirm that paint coverage is free of cracks, bare spots or other damage.
4. Confirm that all putty is intact, painted correctly, and that the paint “kisses” the glass edge ($1/16$ ” minimum).
5. To help keep double hung windows moving smoothly, rub the window tracks with paraffin wax every few years.
6. Periodically oil the hinges on casement windows to keep them operating smoothly and easily.

Thank you for choosing Wooden Window, Inc.

