

# Installation Guidelines

*Quality Craftmanship from T.M.Cobb*

## **Handling, finishing & Installation guidelines:**

Wood stile and rail doors are a reflection of quality and good taste. In order to ensure that the final consumer obtains maximum enjoyment and utility from these products, we strongly urge you to read and follow the guidelines detailed below. Failure to follow the guidelines below will invalidate our Limited Warranty. It will be the discretion of T.M. Cobb or its representative to approve or reject any claim due to poor handling, application, installation or finishing.

### **Door Handling Guide**

1. Handle all doors with clean gloves and equipment.
2. Avoid dragging doors across one another or across other surfaces. Avoid leaning at a steep angle.
3. Store on a level surface in a dry, well-ventilated building. Avoid stacking on end.
4. Cover doors to keep clean, but allow air circulation.
5. Door should not be subject to abnormal heat, dryness or humidity for prolonged periods. Avoid sudden change such as forced heat to dry out a building.
6. Deliver doors in clean truck and under cover in wet weather.
7. Deliver doors to building site only after plaster, stucco and/or cement is dry.
8. If the doors are to be stored for long periods or on the job site, the entire door including the top and bottom edges must be sealed in order to prevent undue moisture absorption.
9. Door shall not be exposed to excessive moisture (above 55%RH), excessive heat (90 degree F), direct sunlight, and/or dryness (30%RH).
10. Doors should not be stacked or stood directly onto cement floors.

### **Door Fitting and Handling Guide**

1. All wood doors should be conditioned to average prevailing relative humidity of the locality before hanging.
2. When hanging door, allow adequate clearance for swelling of door or frame in extreme damp weather.
3. Avoid cutting doors down in size, use designated sizes. If width trim is necessary, do not trim over 1/4" per side. Top may be trimmed 1/8" and the bottom no more than 3/4". Use a sharp, fine tooth saw for best results. Be sure to reseal both top & bottom.
4. Caution must be used to avoid impairing the utility or structural strength of the door when fitting for hardware, lites, louvers, panels, and/or any other special detail.
5. Use two hinges on doors 6/8' in height or less on interior doors, 3 hinges for exterior 6/8' doors and four hinges on doors over 6/8' in height. Hinges must be set in a straight line to prevent distortion. Pilot holes must be drilled for attachment of hardware.
6. Be sure that the jambs and stops are set perfectly square and plumb.
7. Where doors are installed for outward swing with no protection from the elements, doors must be properly protected with an exterior grade sealer and finish. Swing out doors are not warranted if there is no protective overhang.
8. Immediately after fitting, cutting for closers, weather-strip and/or threshold and before door installation on the job, the entire door including top and bottom edges must be sealed to prevent undue absorption of moisture.

### **Door Finishing Guide**

1. Adjust or align components if necessary.
2. All doors manufactured by T.M. Cobb require sanding prior to finishing.
3. T.M. Cobb will not be responsible for the appearance of field-finished doors.
4. Remove all handling marks, instruction labels, stamps and effects of exposure to moisture with a thorough, final light sanding over all surfaces of the door, using 150 or 180 grit sandpaper. Note: Small amounts of grease, oil or pitch can be wiped clean with mineral spirits.
5. Clean door thoroughly after sanding to remove all dust or foreign material. Avoid using chemical cleaners that react unfavorably to certain wood species and finishes. Consult a finish expert. Note: some hardwood species can have an adverse reaction with certain chemical cleaners and finishes.
6. Apply finish as soon as door is fitted, but before final hanging. Cutouts for hardware must be sealed prior to installation. T.M. Cobb will not warrant product that has been hung prior to finishing or that shows deterioration of wood or swelling due to finish breakdown.
7. Make sure all surfaces are sealed and finished, including top, bottom and side edges of the stiles and rails.
8. Use a good grade primer followed by at least three top coats of a good grade oil or latex paint. Generally, oil based paints should be used as a primer coat, although latex paint systems have been developed, which paint manufacturers may recommend for use with doors. Use exterior grade paint for exterior installation.
9. For stain finishes, apply a first coat of quality oil based stain and sealer followed by at least three coats of clear finish. Three coats of clear finish will provide maximum protection. Not all exterior stains are sealers. Doors must be adequately sealed to prevent excessive moisture absorption. Do not use lacquer-based finishes. Use exterior grade finishes for exterior installations. NOTE: On all stained doors, apply a coat of exterior wood wax and buff with soft cloth occasionally.
10. Sand lightly between all coats whether painting or staining, making sure that all surfaces and edges are covered every time a coat is applied.
11. To minimize moisture penetration where wood parts or glass and wood come together, be sure enough paint or sealer is applied to form a bridge film across any voids. Back putty any voids between glass and stop prior to finishing. Make sure that the finish does not prevent movement of panels.
12. You can make sure all coatings in the finish system are compatible by using products from the same manufacturer. Finish manufacturers will be able to tell you which of their products may be successfully applied in combination with each other. Finishes should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
13. Finish on doors will deteriorate over time. All products manufactured by T.M. Cobb require yearly inspection and potential additional coats of finish.

### **Exterior Door Finishing Guide**

In addition to the above, exterior doors need additional care.

1. Must be protected from moisture and sunlight prior to finishing.
  2. They must be finished with at least three coats of exterior grade material on all six sides.
  3. A substantial overhang and protection from the elements will minimize component movement inherent to exterior wood doors.
  4. Use a high-grade exterior primer followed by at least three coats of high-grade paint on all six sides. For natural finishes, use an oil base semi-transparent stain designed for exterior use, followed by at least three coats of marine spar varnish or locally approved exterior grade finish containing UV inhibitors to protect from sun damage.
- Do not use high-gloss and/or lacquer based finishes for exterior use.  
Dark colors will absorb heat and should be avoided.  
Dark colors will void warranty.