

# Care of Timber Doors on Site

## How to get the most out of your Timber Doors after delivery

*Doors and doorsets manufactured by members of the British Woodworking Federation are designed and manufactured using the best available techniques to produce performance rated components. After delivery it is vital that doors are correctly treated to ensure that the moisture content is appropriate for the situation and that they are not physically damaged in unloading, storage and installation. Good practice avoids damage, maintains quality and saves money. Internal and external doors and doorsets may be supplied 'in the white', with a primer or stain base coat applied or as fully finished components. Each type needs careful handling and protection although the actual requirements vary slightly.*

### Delivery and storage

#### Check doors at the time of delivery

All components should be checked at the time of delivery to ensure that they are in accordance with the order schedule, the delivery is complete and that the components, including any protective packaging, are not damaged.

Timber used in the manufacture of doors will be graded in accordance with BS EN 942:1996 Timber in joinery - "General classification of timber quality" and the workmanship will meet the requirements of BS 1186 Part 2:1998 "Timber for and workmanship in joinery" - Specification for workmanship.

The moisture content of timber in the doors should be in the range of 10% and 16% depending upon their type and location.

For long term performance of the door and finish, it is important that the appropriate moisture content is maintained during storage on site and during the construction process.

Wherever possible the sequence of deliveries should be co-ordinated to site requirements in order that doors are not kept on site unfixed for longer than necessary.

#### Handle doors carefully

Doors and doorsets should be handled carefully to avoid physical damage (do not lift by glazing bars) and to keep them clean.

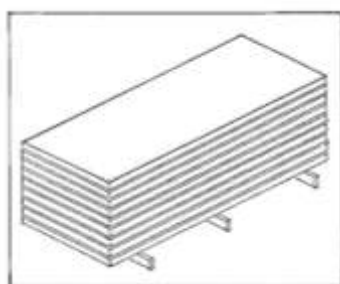
When door leaves are protected by shrink- wrapping or other packaging this should be kept in place as long as possible.

Doors delivered in the white should be sealed and primed on all faces and edges immediately after delivery.

Never hang a door before applying a protective coating.

#### Store Doors Under Cover in a Dry Ventilated Building

Doors should be stored flat (never on edge or on end) on a level surface and kept clear of the floor on at least three level bearers. The bearers should be longer than the width of the doors and the gap beneath the doors should be at least 90 mm.



Doors should be protected from dirt and damage but without restricting air circulation.

Natural finish doors should be stacked so that they are not partly exposed to daylight and opaque wrappings must not be torn.

Exposure to ultra violet light can cause fading or discoloration of timber and veneers.

Whenever possible store doors and doorsets in the sequence they will be

needed with codes or identifying marks visible to avoid double handling. Avoid dragging them across each other in the stack.

Doorsets which have projecting sills or have the hardware fitted must have spacers between them in the stack to avoid damage.

#### Protect Doors During Site Operations

Ensure that the moisture content of the wood is kept close to the level at which it was when the door was manufactured.

Internal doors must be conditioned to the service conditions before fixing.

They must be protected from abnormal heat, extreme dryness, humid conditions or sudden changes of temperature or humidity.

Doors should not be stored or fitted in the building until the wet trades are finished and the building has dried out.

#### Treat Prefinished Doors like a Piece of Fitted Furniture

Factory finished door frames or door linings should ideally be fitted into pre-formed openings and not built into masonry walls.

Pre-finished doors should retain their protective packaging until the latest possible time, ideally until after internal decorations have been completed.

If it is necessary to separate the doors from doorsets each door and frame should be given an

identification mark so that the correct door is returned to the frame.

## Installation

### Doors should be fitted square

Doors should be fitted square, true and plumb and fixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or the project specification.

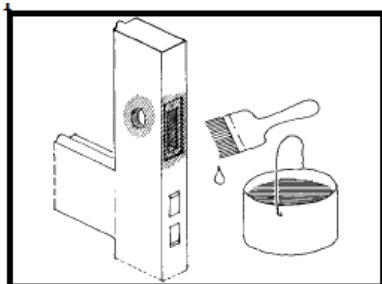
Three hinges should be fitted to all external doors, doors weighing more than 20 kilograms and internal doors where large differences of temperature or humidity on opposing faces can be expected (e.g. bathrooms and airing cupboards).

Ideally, external door frames should be set well back from the outer face of the wall or else be protected by a canopy. If not, the head of the frame should be provided with a projecting head drip.

External doors opening outwards should be particularly well protected by finishing as these are the most exposed.

### Mortices for locks must not be cut through joints in the door framing

Cutting through joints in the door framing will impair performance of the rail joint.



If any part of a previously treated external door or door frame is cut or drilled, swab the newly exposed timber with a suitable organic solvent preservative treatment and re-coat with primer or stain.

### Use good glazing practice

Glazing rebates and backs of beads should be sealed with an appropriate sealant.

Glazing panels in doors must satisfy the requirements in respect of safety glass.

Bead glazing must be correctly fitted using compound or glazing tapes to both sides of the glass.

### Fire Resisting Doors should not be altered on site

Fire resisting doors and doorsets need special consideration when fitting. Use BWF-CERTIFIRE doors and follow the manufacturers instructions. The identifying label should not be damaged or defaced.

## FINISHING

### Start finishing as soon as possible

It is recommended that decoration be commenced as soon as possible after installation (preferably within days). Prolonged exposure of bare timber or priming/base coats will effect the long term performance of subsequent coats.

External doors and frames with factory applied primer or base coat stain should have at least one of the finishing coats applied as soon as possible after delivery or installation. The back of external frames should be coated before installation.

### Ensure surfaces and edges are in good order before applying finishing coats

If the primer or base coat stain has deteriorated, or the surface has been exposed to light for longer than three months, it should be re-coated before further finishing coats are applied.

Finishing of external doors and frames should be carried out in dry weather using only good exterior quality materials in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

On external doors, the finish should be an exterior quality paint or a 'high build' stain. ('Low build' types of stain should not be used on external doors.)

It should be noted that the use of dark coloured paint or stain finishes

on external doors, particularly if located on the south or south west elevations of buildings, will result in high surface temperatures on the door and can increase the risk of distortion and of resin exudation through the finish.

### Ensure all surfaces and edges are painted

It is important that all surfaces of doors are painted. For external doors or other doors subject to high humidity or take up of moisture it is especially important that the full finishing system is applied to the top and bottom edges of the door leaf. The bottom edge should be coated before fitting the door.

Factory finished doors should be checked for damage to the finish and any small areas made good in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

The door manufacturer may disclaim responsibility for any defect or failure that may subsequently occur which is attributable to non-compliance either wholly or in part with the advice given in this information sheet.

### Special note for the finishing of Fire Doors

The label or plug that identifies the fire door must NOT be painted over.

Damage or defacing the label will result in the door no longer being accepted as a fire door. **Note:** *Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advice given, the federation cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of the information supplied in this publication.*

A list of BWF door manufacturers and additional guidance is available via [www.bwf.org.uk](http://www.bwf.org.uk)

