

## **THERMA-TRU FIBERGLASS and STEEL DOOR SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPER FINISHING AND PAINTING OR STAINING**

The Limited Warranties for Therma-Tru's door system products require, among other provisions, that the Products be properly stored prior to installation, properly installed, finished and painted (or stained), and properly maintained following installation.

Improper or untimely finishing and painting (or staining) by the Warranty Holder and its Building Agents (i) increases the chance for Product damage of the type which is NOT COVERED by the Product's Limited Warranty, and (ii) increases the preparatory work that must be performed by the Warranty Holder or its Building Agents in order to properly finish and paint (or stain) the Products in accordance with Therma-Tru's recommendations and instructions. This is particularly a consideration for Steel Door systems.

Therma-Tru makes the following finishing and painting (staining) recommendations for finishing its FIBERGLASS and STEEL DOOR SYSTEM Products:

**TIMING:** Following the *earlier* of installation or other exposure to environmental conditions:

- Steel Door Systems should be finished *within several days*
- Fiberglass Door Systems should be finished *within 6 months*
- All bare-wood surfaces on non-Therma-Tru components used by the Warranty Holder or its Building Agents (such as, door jambs, mull posts, brickmold, and mull casings) should be PRIMED and finished *within 2 weeks* (NOTE: non-Therma-Tru components are expressly EXCLUDED and NOT COVERED under Therma-Tru's Limited Warranty)
- All bare-wood surfaces exposed on Therma-Tru products after receipt of the Product should be PRIMED and finished *within several days* (such as if sides of a door slab are sanded or planed, or if hinge mortise pockets are machined after priming the edge of the door)

READ THE PRODUCT LIMITED WARRANTY for complete information about what is and what is not covered by the Product Limited Warranty.

### **Painting the Steel Door System (Profiles and Traditions):**

1. Carefully inspect the door for any unclean or unsmooth surface. Pay special attention to greasy fingerprints and general grime.
2. Steel Doors that may have been exposed to improper pre-installation storage, high humidity, excessive atmospheric salt (such as generally within 5 miles of a body of salt water), airborne dust, debris or dirt, or other corrosive conditions (such as exposure to solvents, corrosives, other salts, chemical, or excessive moisture), must be carefully cleaned to ensure that ALL residues from such substances are COMPLETELY removed prior to finishing AND must be carefully checked for ANY signs of rust.

(NOTE: except where a Therma-Tru Steel Doors "System" is purchased with a factory-applied finish paint, Therma-Tru Steel Doors are shipped only with a factory-applied primer that functions as *temporary* retardant against rusting and certain other damage under normal temperature and environmental conditions, only until prompt and proper finishing by the Warranty Holder or its Building Agents.)

3. Priming is NOT needed if the Steel Door Product is timely finished and painted. However, if the Steel Door Product has not been timely finished then priming will be required if there are

signs of rust, or if any post-delivery damage has caused deep scratches or other situation that scores through the factory-applied primer (visible silver or non-white color would suggest such scoring or damage). In such event, refer to step 4 before applying a primer.

4. If there are any signs of rusting (or deep scratches), then before priming, mild sanding is required to remove the rust and level and smooth the surface. Early signs of rust should NEVER be ignored nor simply primed or painted over. Sand with 150 grit sandpaper, then finish with 220 grit or finer until the surface is free of rust, flush with the surface, and is smooth to the touch. A small amount of primer must be applied to the sanded area by the Warranty Holder or its Building Agents if ANY sanding has been done. Use an Alkyd Based primer. The sanded area should not be visible after priming. Noticeable damage prior to finishing should be immediately brought to the attention of the distributor or Therma-Tru.
5. Before painting, remove weather-stripping from jambs by gently pulling out. Re-insert weather-stripping by pushing in after the door is completely finished and dry.
6. Before painting, REMOVE ALL locking hardware, strike plates, address plates or numbers, door knockers, hinges and other hardware. DO NOT SIMPLY MASK off these items. For the initial painting of a Steel Door System, Therma-Tru recommends the door slab be painted either before installation of ANY of these items or have the Steel Door slab be detached from the frame and ALL these items removed to assure that any exposed wood (particularly from the machining process) is covered with both primer and finish paint coat. Before painting, PRIMER MUST BE APPLIED to all exposed bare-wood (see page 1 TIMING).
7. If the steel door has Door Lite Frames, mask off the glass as provided below.
8. **Use high-quality acrylic latex house (interior grade on inside surfaces; exterior grade on outside surfaces), (DO NOT USE AUTOMOTIVE PAINT)** following the manufacturer's directions for application.
9. Paint edges and exposed ends of door.
10. Inspect Steel Doors for evidence of finish deterioration at least annually and more frequently in severe exposure environments. Maintain or replace finishes as soon as any deterioration is evident. Exposures to high humidity, excessive atmospheric salt (such as generally within 5 miles of a body of salt water) or other corrosive conditions (such as exposure to solvents, corrosives, other salts, chemical, or excessive moisture) require more frequent inspection and maintenance.

#### **Painting Door Lite Frames:**

1. Remove any excess glass glazing sealant by first spraying with a window cleaner or water.
2. Use a single edge razor blade to score the glazing along the edge of the frame. Holding the razor blade at a 45 degree angle, scrape glazing from glass.
3. Wipe remaining residue off with window cleaner or mineral spirits.
4. Clean frame with a mild detergent and water, or use a TSP solution. Rinse well and allow to dry completely.
5. Mask off glass.
6. Prime door lite frames with an alkyd-or acrylic-based primer. Allow primer to dry before applying finish paint coats.
7. Use high-quality acrylic latex house paint (use interior grade on inside surfaces; and exterior grade on the outside surfaces following manufacturer's application instructions).

### **Painting Smooth-Star Fiberglass Door Systems:**

1. Do NOT stain. PRIMER IS NOT REQUIRED UNLESS bare-wood has been exposed (see page 1 TIMING), in which case primer MUST be applied to all bare-wood before painting. DO NOT APPLY PAINT (TOPCOAT) DIRECTLY TO ANY UNPRIMED BARE-WOOD PRODUCTS OR COMPONENTS
2. ONLY paint. Use a high quality acrylic latex house paint (use interior grade on inside surfaces; use exterior grade on the outside surface and on each of the four perimeter “sides” – top, bottom and two vertical sides).
3. DO NOT USE AUTOMOTIVE PAINT.

### **Painting or Staining Classic-Craft and Fiber-Classic Fiberglass Door Systems:**

1. If staining, ONLY use Therma-Tru Same-Day™ Stain and Topcoat and follow the instructions included with the "Same-Day™ Stain and Topcoat Finishing" kit.
2. If painting, first PRIME and then use a high quality acrylic latex paint (interior grade on inside surfaces; exterior grade on the outside surface and on each of the four perimeter “sides” – top, bottom, and two vertical sides). DO NOT APPLY PAINT (TOPCOAT) DIRECTLY TO ANY UNPRIMED (BARE) WOOD PRODUCTS OR COMPONENTS (see page 1 TIMING).
3. DO NOT USE AUTOMOTIVE PAINT.

### **HINTS:**

1. Work only when temperatures are between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit and with humidity less than 85%. Do not finish in direct sunlight.
2. Smooth-Star fiberglass doors with BTS (plastic injection molded) door lite frames do not require painting. However, it is recommended to paint them with the same paint used to paint the door, to avoid any potential for color differences between the door and lite frame. Also note, the doors can be painted a dark color and even placed behind a storm door if desired. Note; however, if a dark color is used, the surface temperature of the door can get extremely hot when exposed to direct sunlight.
3. Caulk around entire unit on “weather” side; seal brickmold to siding or facing, seal front bottom edge of sill, and seal all joints between jambs and moldings.
4. Place and set galvanized finish nails through brickmold around perimeter. Use exterior grade screws if you are installing a storm door to the brickmould. Cover all countersunk fasteners with exterior-grade putty.
5. Add insulation material to the cavity between the opening and the unit to reduce **air infiltration** and **heat transfer**.
6. Seal joints between exterior hardware trim and door face to prevent air and water infiltration
7. Provide and maintain a properly installed cap flashing to protect top surfaces from water damage
8. Paint according to Therma-Tru instructions.
9. Do no paint seal gaskets / pads or weather-strip. Weather-strip should be removed for easier painting.
10. Bare unprotected wood will weather, degrade and change color. Any non-Therma-Tru components and Therma-Tru products with bare-wood surfaces should be PRIMED and finished. SEE PAGE 1 TIMING for IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
11. All 6 sides of the door must be finished and for out-swing doors the sides, top and bottom must be inspected and maintained as regularly as all other surfaces.
12. Maintain or replace sealants and finishes as soon as any deterioration is evident. For semi-gloss or glossy paints, or clear coats, do this when the surface becomes dull or rough. More severe exposures require more frequent maintenance.

***All Therma-Tru products must be promptly and properly finished in accordance with our recommendations. Failure to do so may adversely affect the applicable Limited Warranty.***

**END**