

Albany Door Company, Inc.

5846 W. 66th Street
Bedford Park, IL 60638

DOOR FINISH MAINTENANCE

All exterior finishes are affected by exposure and weathering from the sun, moisture and air pollutants. Scratches must be repaired to maintain the integrity of the finish.

Cleaning

Dirt and watermarks can build up on the surface of your finished door over time. Extend the life of the paint or stain by cleaning the door several times a year. Clean with a mild sudsing detergent in warm water. (The suds help to prevent scratching the finish.) The best results have been with car wash products similar to Turtle Wax® Zip Wax Car Wash™. Most of these products are mild and many contain some wax which will further protect the finish. Rinse and dry with a soft towel.

Stained Finishes

At least twice a year, inspect the exterior clear-coat. If the door seems rough, has lost its gloss, or appears to have faded, you need to re-topcoat. First clean the door with a degreaser like Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP). Then lightly sand with a 400 grit or finer sandpaper, taking care not to remove any of the stain finish, just enough to lightly scratch the top surface. Followed by another cleaning with a degreaser, rinse with clean water and dry. Finally, apply a high-quality, flexible, exterior grade, UV inhibitor clear-coat. (Spar Varnish is not recommended, as a super-hard coating it is not flexible enough to handle the door's expansion and contraction as temperatures change.) Coatings like Varathane® Premium Spar Urethane, ZAR® Exterior Polyurethane (either water or oil-based), sikkens® Cetol® Door & Window, Minwax® Clear Shield™, Minwax® Helmsman® Spar Urethane are just some of the products which will perform well when applied following the manufactures' directions.

-Scratches and chips

In the event that the door is scratched or chipped, the damaged area needs to be lightly sanded using 400 grit or finer sandpaper (do not over-sand the surface). Use multiple light coats of the touch-up stain, allowing it to dry between applications, until the color matches. Allow it to dry and then clear-coat following the above directions.

Painted Finishes

At least once a year, inspect the painted finish. If the door seems rough, has lost its gloss, or appears to have faded, you need to re-paint. First clean the door with a degreaser like Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP). Then lightly sand with a 400 grit or finer sandpaper, taking care not to remove all of the paint finish, just enough to lightly scratch the top surface. Followed by another cleaning with a degreaser, rinse with clean water and dry. Finally, apply a high-quality exterior grade paint following the manufactures' directions.

-Scratches and chips

In the event that the door is scratched or chipped, the damaged area needs to be lightly sanded using 400 grit or finer sandpaper. Use two light coats of the touch-up paint, allowing it to dry between applications (you may want to use a foam brush for easier blending with our smooth finish).