

# VERSATILE

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## WOOD PRODUCTS

### FINISHING BEST PRACTICE AND GLASS CARE GUIDELINES

Versatile Wood Products recommends hiring a professional for all finishing of wood windows and doors. The quality of finish has a direct impact on the lifespan and operation of your product. Immediately following installation, all bare and primed wood windows and doors must have a top-quality finish applied to the wood surfaces. Periodic maintenance is required and will vary depending on exposure and products used. Our warranty may be voided if windows or doors do not receive a protective topcoat immediately following delivery, and maintained on a reasonable, regular schedule.

DO NOT PAINT, STAIN OR OTHERWISE FINISH weather stripping or other non-wood parts, including hardware surfaces. Doing so may damage or reduce the lifespan of these components.

Timeliness of painting or finishing wood surfaces is critical. After a unit is installed and has been exposed to weather and/or interior humidity, it can be difficult to dry the wood surface for good surface finish adhesion. Unfinished wood surfaces will discolor, deteriorate, swell, and may warp or split. If you purchased your units pre-primed from our shop, it is still necessary to apply the finish coat expediently according to these recommendations. Primer is to facilitate the bond of the finish coat and is not a protective sealant.

Wood is a natural product with inherent variation in texture, pattern, and grain. Some finishes may cause these differences to appear more pronounced. These variations are not considered defects. Raised grain is natural behavior and is not considered a defect. Additional sanding after priming or painting may be necessary.

### BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR FINISHING

1. If windows and doors cannot be installed immediately, they must be stored in a dry and temperature-controlled environment.
2. Only exterior grade, water barrier finish products are suitable for use on exterior windows and doors.
3. The frame should be installed in rough opening first, then remove any operable elements (sash or door slab).
4. Any holes from fasteners applied to jambs, moldings, sills, or other parts must be prepped with appropriate putty prior to finishing.
5. All interior wood surfaces must be cleaned prior to staining or finishing. Lacquer thinner applied with a clean dry cloth, or a tack cloth, will remove most dust and dirt from wood surfaces. Ensure the wood surfaces are completely dry before proceeding.
6. If staining before applying clear coat, first apply a wood conditioner according to the manufacturer's instructions.
7. Apply a suitable grade topcoat to all wood surfaces after primer (or after wood conditioner and stain for clear coat). We recommend any exterior clear coat contain UV protective ingredients. For pieces with glazing, the topcoat should extend to the glass, leaving a 1/16" bead on the glass surface itself. This is critical to help avoid water intrusion at this vulnerable point.
8. Be sure to follow all manufacturer's guidelines for the finish products being used. If using multiple products, be sure to check for compatibility. Take note of curing time and how ambient conditions may affect the product. Improper application and insufficient cure time can result in sticking components, poor operation, and damage to the finished surface.

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**FOR DOUBLE HUNG:** The parting bead (trim between the sash) and the sash stop (trim that holds the lower sash in place from the inside) must be removable in order to take out the sash should the need arise in the future. Take care to not seal these in place with a thick layer of paint—we recommend removing these items to paint separately.

**FOR EXTERIOR DOORS:** All surfaces must be finished. Failure to do so can result in warpage. For best protection, a penetrating epoxy product can be used on the top and bottom of the door before applying finish coats. Use silicone caulking around the perimeter of any panels.

### GLASS CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Versatile Wood Products recommends the guidelines put forth by the Glass Association of North America (GANA).

**WARNING: DO NOT USE RAZOR BLADES OR METAL SCRAPERS TO CLEAN GLASS.**

Avoid cleaning glass with low-e coating in direct sunlight. Start cleaning glass at the top of the building and continue to lower levels. Soak the glass surface with clean water and soap solution to loosen dirt and debris.

Use a mild, non-abrasive window cleaning solution. Use a squeegee to remove all solution, and dry any pooled solution from any gaskets, sealants, and frames.

### CAPILLARY TUBES

Insulated glass units that are transported over a significant elevation change require special construction and handling.

The insulated glass units have capillary tubes installed in an upper corner of each sash. These tubes allow the units to depressurize as they are transported up to high elevation. This will alleviate possible pressure imbalance problems (including excessive bowing/cupping resulting in optical distortion or clearance issues, damage to the insulating seal, glass breakage).

- The long tail of the capillary tube must be **UNSEALED PRIOR TO SHIPPING AND KEPT OPEN DURING THE MOVE** to allow pressure equalization during transit.
- The unit must be shipped with the capillary tube at the **TOP CORNER, POINTING DOWN**.
- Once at the final installation elevation, the units must **ACCLIMATE FOR 48 HOURS** before they are installed. Do not trim the tail; its length helps prevent moisture from entering the cavity.
- After the acclimation period, the tubes must be **SEALED WITH A DOLLOP OF SILICONE**. Leave the tail long if possible; if it must be trimmed, crimp twice near the base of the tail, then cut and seal.
- Seal when temperatures are moderate (50 - 70° F) with the unit in a **VERTICAL** position, with the tube at the top pointing down.

These installation guidelines must be followed for the glass unit to be warrantied. Seal failure may result if instructions are not followed as outlined.