

Door System Maintenance ----- 3.3

Stripping and Refinishing Instructions --- 3.5

Maintenance

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All Therma-Tru door systems and associated components should be inspected and checked at least once a year for the following conditions: fading of door finishes, weatherstrip seal inadequacies, door bottom gasket or sill gasket wear, and vinyl threshold or oak riser splitting or cracking. Upon inspection if any of these components fail to function, they should be repaired or replaced as follows.

- Door Finishes

Clearcoats and Stains

All exterior finishes are affected by exposure and weathering from the sun, moisture and air pollutants. A simple application of a maintenance coat of topcoat will renew the protection over the stained surface on Classic-Craft and Fiber-Classic door slabs **Before topcoat fails, reapply fresh topcoat.** Clean first with a household detergent and water. Rinse and let dry. Reapply the topcoat approximately every 3-5 years or when gloss fades. Fading will vary.

HINT: Pull out and compare the sample that was finished when door was new to the door periodically. When compared to the sample, if the door seems rough or has lost its gloss, you need to re-topcoat your door.

Paint on Classic-Craft or Fiber-Classic Doors

For fading, cracking, splitting, etc., of painted Classic-Craft or Fiber-Classic doors, stripping and refinishing may be required. Refer to SITE 3 for proper instructions on stripping and refinishing door slabs.

Paint on Smooth-Star or Steel Doors

For cracking, splitting or deteriorating paint finishes on steel doors, lightly sand surface of door and touch up to match overall finish.

Special Note for Outswing Door Systems

Swing-out doors must have all edges - sides, top and bottom - finished. Inspect and maintain these edges regularly as all other surfaces.

Refer to SITE 2 Finishing Instructions of the Product Manual for more details.

- Weatherstripping

If the weatherstripping fails to perform (i.e., not sealing the door system properly, cracking, tearing, etc.) the weatherstrip needs to be replaced. Remove the existing weatherstripping and replace. Refer to SITE 5 Weatherstrip Replacement for proper installation of replacement weatherstrip.

- Door Bottom and Sill Gaskets

If the door bottom gasket fails to perform (i.e., splitting, cracking, pulling away from door slab, etc.), the door bottom needs to be replaced with a new door bottom. See SHOP3 for proper door bottom installation.

If the sill gaskets on outswing sills fails to perform (i.e., splitting, cracking, etc.), the sill gasket needs to be replaced. Pull the existing gasket and replace the gasketing for proper functioning of the sill. Refer to COMP 11 Sills for proper replacement part to order.

- Oak Risers for Adjustable Sills

If the oak riser for an adjustable sill fails to perform (i.e., splitting, cracking, etc.), the oak riser needs to be replaced. Remove the existing riser and replace. Refer to SITE 5 for proper oak riser selection and replacement installation.

- Vinyl Thresholds

If the vinyl threshold fails to perform (i.e., splitting, cracking, etc.), the vinyl threshold needs to be replaced. Remove the existing threshold and replace. Refer to SITE 5 for proper vinyl threshold selection and replacement installation.

Door System Maintenance

- Corner Seal Pads

If corner seal pads are torn or missing, replace corner seal pads. Refer to SHOP 4 or SITE 1 for adjustable and self-adjusting sills.

- Sealing/Resealing Areas

If a caulk seal fails to perform (i.e. water leakage), remove existing seal and reseal area. Refer to Product Manual table of contents for specific door type and sealing condition.

Maintenance

Classic-Craft® and Fiber-Classic® Door Slabs

Stripping to Re-Finish

1. **Choose a standard paint stripper.** Paint or stain and topcoat can be removed with most methylene chloride based strippers such as Dad's Easy Strip, Bix Tough, Bix Stripper, or Savogran Super Stripper. Also, 3-M Safest Strip may be used. Some products may warn, "Not For Use on Fiberglass." However, these products can be used safely on Therma-Tru Classic-Craft and Fiber-Classic doors.

2. **Apply stripper to doorlite frames (1st) and raised decorative panel inserts (2nd).**



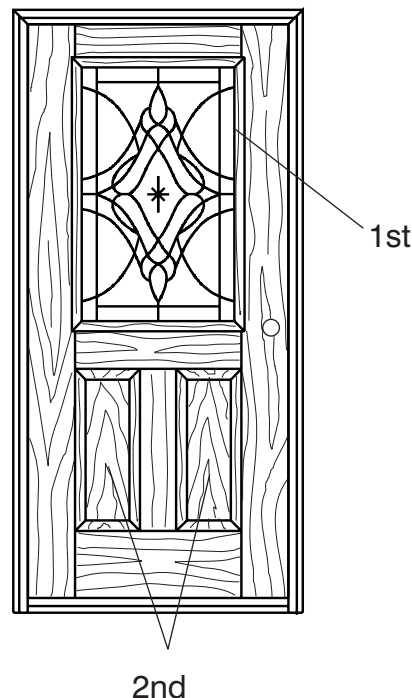
Remove the stripper within 2-3 minutes.

These components have factory applied primers, which may be removed with long exposure to paint strippers. Follow the paint stripper manufacturer's directions and cautions for correct use of the paint stripper. Using a brass wire brush, nylon bristle brush or grade 000 steel wool allows easier removal of paint and stain from the wood grain texture.

3. **Apply stripper to the rest of the door.** Work on small areas at a time. Follow the paint stripper manufacturer's directions and cautions for correct use of the paint stripper. Using a brass wire brush, nylon bristle brush or grade 000 steel wool allows easier removal of paint and stain from the wood grain texture.

4. **Wash off remaining stripper.** After the stain or paint has been removed, scrub the door with an all purpose cleaner to completely remove any stripper residue. Rinse well and wipe dry. Make sure door is completely dry before refinishing.

5. **Refinish** as desired according to the recommended finishing procedures in SITE 2.



Smooth-Star Door Slabs

Follow the directions above for Classic-Craft and Fiber-Classic door slabs. Paint will be easier to remove due to the lack of wood grain texture.

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