

# Painting Tips

## Therma-Tru Smooth-Star® Fiberglass Entry and Patio Door Systems

All Therma-Tru Smooth-Star® fiberglass entry and patio door systems must be finished within 6 months\*\* of the installation date for continued warranty coverage.

### Painting The Door

1. Clean first with mild detergent and water or use a TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) solution.
2. Rinse well and allow to dry completely. Mask off hardware, glass and remove weather-stripping before painting.
3. Weather-stripping may be removed by gently pulling out. Re-insert after door is completely dry.
4. Use high-quality acrylic latex house paint, following manufacturer's directions for application.
5. Use exterior grade paints for outside surfaces.
6. Paint edges and exposed ends of door.
7. DO NOT STAIN.

### Painting Doorlite Frames

1. Remove any excess 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, following manufacturer's application instructions. Use exterior grade paints for outside surfaces.

### Hints

1. Provide and maintain a properly installed cap or head flashing to protect top of surfaces from **water intrusion** and damage. Tape and properly seal the top flap of the Water Resistive Barrier (WRB) over the head flashing.
2. Caulk around **entire** "weather" side of the door system, sealing along the brickmould to the flashing material or siding and seal all joints between the jambs and moldings.
3. Seal the joints between the exterior hardware trim and the door face to **prevent** air and water infiltration.
4. Place and set galvanized finish nails through the brickmould around the perimeter. Use exterior grade screws if you are installing a storm door to the brickmould. Countersink all fasteners and cover with exterior grade putty.
5. Add insulation material to the cavity between the opening and the door system to reduce **air infiltration** and **heat transfer**.
6. \*\*All Therma-Tru Smooth Star door systems **must be finished within 6 months of the installation date** for continued warranty coverage however, all bare wood surfaces (such as door frames) should be primed and painted and top coated **within 2 weeks** of installation or exposure to weather.
7. Paint (DO NOT STAIN) according to Therma Tru finishing instructions (See NOTE below). Do Not paint or stain the weather-strip, it is "friction-fit" and easily removed for painting or staining.
8. **All doors must** have all 6 sides finished and on out-swing doors the sides, top and bottom must be inspected and maintained as regularly as all other surfaces.
9. Maintain or replace sealants and finishes as soon as any deterioration is evident. For semi-gloss or glossy paint or clear coats, do this when the surface becomes dull or rough. More severe climates and exposures will require more frequent maintenance.
10. Access our website [www.thermatru.com](http://www.thermatru.com) for printable versions of the installation and to view our Troubleshooting video for minor installation issues and adjustments.

**NOTE: For detailed information on finishing and warranty coverage see "THERMA-TRU FIBERGLASS and STEEL DOOR SYSTEMS RECOMENDATIONS FOR PROPER FINISHING AND PAINTING OR STAINING" located in the warranty section of the Therma-Tru website @ [www.therma-tru.com](http://www.therma-tru.com) (Last Edited 9/30/09)**