

Therma-Tru Care and Maintenance

Door System Maintenance

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 top coat fails, reapply fresh topcoat. Clean first with a house hold 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

RISERS FOR ADJUSTABLE SILLS

If the riser for an adjustable sill fails to perform (i.e., splitting, cracking, etc.), the riser needs to be replaced. Remove the existing riser and replace.

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.

CORNER SEAL PADS

If corner seal pads are torn or missing, replace corner seal pads.

SEALING/RESEALING AREAS

If a caulk seal fails to perform (i.e. waterleakage), remove existing seal and reseal area.

STRIPPING TO REFINISH

1. Choose a standard paint stripper. Paint or stain and topcoat can be removed with most methylene chloride-based strippers, such as:

* Bix® Quick Strip®

* Savogran® SuperStrip® * Dad's Easy Spray® Paint, Stain & Varnish Remover

* Bix® Tuff Job® * Savogran® Kutzit™ * 3-M® Safest Stripper®

NOTE: Some products may warn, Not for Use on Fiberglass. However, these products can be used safely on fiberglass doors.

2. Apply stripper to doorlite frames first and raised panel inserts second (see illustration). Remove the stripper within 2-3 minutes. These components have a factory-applied primer which may be removed with long exposure to paint strippers. Follow the paint stripper manufacturer's directions and cautions for use of the paint stripper. Use a brass wire brush, nylon bristle brush or grade 000 steel wool for 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.

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 clean and dry before refinishing.

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