



# Recommendations on Finishing your DSA Master Crafted Door

## DSA's Recommendations on Finishing your door:

Your DSA door has been handcrafted to last for many years to come and like any piece of fine furniture, it needs proper finishing and periodic maintenance to keep it performing its best. For a long-lasting, beautiful DSA door, please follow the recommendations outlined below.

### *Finishing Options*

Because DSA doors are crafted with only the finest materials, you can choose from our 3 stain options or you can select a stain or paint color outside of our options. Keep in mind if you choose a dark colored stain, this will void DSA's warranty.

Be sure to evaluate the conditions your DSA door will endure, such as direct exposure to severe climates, before deciding on the specific finish to use.

All DSA doors must be finished 30 days after receiving your door and should be finished before installation so all 6 sides are properly coated and protected against the elements.

**CAUTION:** If during the finish process you are having issues and/or identify problems with your door, stop finishing immediately and contact the company from where you purchased your doors.

### **PREPARATION FOR FINISHING**

Before staining or sanding, mask the glass off with blue painters' tape, being careful not to let the tape roll up on the edge of the glass bead. (And keep all the existing clear film protection on the glass to protect from dirt and scratches)

Before applying the first coat of finish, remove all handling marks, raised grain and other undesirable blemishes by sanding all surfaces with 220 grit sandpaper. If area is rough, can sand with 120 grit sandpaper and then again with 220 grit sandpaper to smooth it out.

We recommend using an orbital sander but if hand sanding, wrap sandpaper around a sanding block or something flat so that you have an even surface when sanding. **NOTE:** To avoid cross-grain scratches, sand along the grain.

After sanding, clean door thoroughly with a cloth to remove all dust or foreign material. Do not use caustic or abrasive cleaners.

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Hang door before finishing, and then remove to finish properly. Doors must be properly sealed prior to installation of hardware and exposure to moisture or weather. Properly finish door immediately before prolonged storage.

All 6 surfaces of the door must be properly finished. The edges (top, bottom and sides) should be coated with each and every coat of finish that is applied to the exterior surface of the door. Doors must be dry before finishing.

On doors that are glazed with clear glass, the finish used should be flowed from the wood slightly onto the glass. This will provide assurance against water leakage and protect the glazing compound "putty" from drying out.

**NOTE:** It is the finisher's responsibility to protect glass prior to and during finishing. If using tape, conduct a test of the tape being used on a small area of the glass before applying to a large surface. After finishing, remove the tape as soon as possible.

All DSA doors have plastic film protection on glass, removal of plastic film protection immediately after applying the finish is required. Failure to remove the plastic film at this time may cause harm to the glass and will create difficulty in removing the film at a later time. Do not use razor blades or sharp objects to remove the film or clean the glass. These items will scratch the glass.

### **Exterior Finishing**

#### *Stain-and-Clear Finish*

The recommended process for finishing DSA doors is a 3-step process.

**Step 1:** application of a wood conditioner (optional as DSA does not provide)

**Step 2:** application of a stain.

**Step 3:** application of at least three top coats of a clear finish.

When selecting the finishes for these three steps, select products that have been designed to work together.



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If using a wood conditioner (which is optional) be sure to follow the directions on their very carefully because timing varies on certain conditioners. The main purpose is to prevent the stain from fully penetrating the wood, which in turn can cause the stain to be lighter.

Wood conditioner prepares the wood to accept finish uniformly and helps to spread the finish evenly. When selecting a wood conditioner, the type of conditioner needs to match the stain. For example, a water-based conditioner for a water-based stain or an oil-based conditioner for an oil-based stain.

DSA Stains are available in 3 colors: Russet, Chestnut, & Coco. If you choose a non-DSA color, you should have an alkyd-resin base. Under no circumstances should a lacquer-based finish system be used on exterior doors.



The three (minimum) top coats may be a solvent-borne (oil-base, alkyd resin-base, polyurethane resin-base) or a water-borne (acrylic resin-base) clear finish. See advantages and disadvantages below.

The advantages and disadvantages of solvent-borne (oil base) vs. water-borne (water base) clear finishes are as follows:

**\*Solvent-Borne Advantages:** Cures slower, harder and more water resistant. May be applied under variable weather conditions.

**\*Solvent-Borne Disadvantages:** Subject to ultraviolet degradation and not as flexible or durable as water-borne clear finish.

**\*Water-Borne Advantages:** Easy to apply, very flexible, greater ultraviolet resistance, cures faster, easier to touch up and good exterior durability.

**\*Water-Borne Disadvantages:** Cannot be applied below 50° F, long curing period required, and may not fully cure for several weeks. Water-sensitive until cure is complete.

**NOTE:** Do not sand between coats of clear acrylic. All stain-and-clear finishes will perform measurably better if protected from the direct effects of sunlight and weathering, and refinishing will not be required as frequently.