Aluminum Frames - Finishing





Improperly prepared surfaces can result in reduced coating integrity and service life. Up to 80% of all coating's failures can be directly attributed to inadequate surface preparation, which affects coating adhesion. For adequate paint adhesion, the surface must be free of dust, debris and other surface contaminants.

No exterior painting should be done immediately after rain, during foggy weather, when rain is predicted, or when the temperature is below 50°F - unless the coating indicates it can be used down to 35°F. Most coatings are now formulated for low-temperature use.

Pre-primed aluminum frame should be wiped clean with a solvent such as acetone or mineral spirits. Allow the cleaning solvent to dry completely – until there is no residual odor. The surface must be dry and in sound condition. Once wiped clean, the frame surface must be lightly sanded with 220-grit sandpaper. After sanding, the door must be washed with a mild detergent in warm soapy water, rinsed and then dried. Use exterior, high quality, oil-based or 100% acrylic water-based latex paint of the desired color. Lacquer paints are not recommended. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for paint application by using either a brush or a handheld sprayer.

PAINTING

Put on gloves, safety glasses, and prepare your materials. Before starting, and occasionally throughout the project, stir the paint using smooth strokes until the texture is creamy – avoid creating bubbles.

FINISHING WITH BRUSH APPLICATION

Dip the brush into the paint, then use the rim of the container to release any excess paint. Apply paint as evenly as possible while still wet. Brush strokes should follow the grain direction of the selected area.

FINISHING WITH SPRAYER APPLICATOR

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for thinning the paint; (i.e. thin latex paint with water or oil-based with a solvent for better atomization and spraying results). Strain paint before filling the spray pot.

DRYING

Important: Let the paint dry completely, following the manufacturer's recommended drying time before handling the painted surface or applying a second coat. If possible, allow the door to dry in a horizontal position to minimize paint runs. High humidity and/or low temperatures may extend your drying time.