

Care of Timber Doors on Site

Internal, external doors and door sets need careful handling and protection. After delivery it is vital that doors are correctly treated to ensure that the moisture content is appropriate for the situation and that they are not physically damaged in unloading, storage and installation. Good practice avoids damage, maintains quality and saves money.

Delivery and Storage

Check doors at the time of delivery. All components should be checked at the time of delivery to ensure that they are in accordance with the order schedule, the delivery is complete and that the components, including any protective packaging, are not damaged.

Doors manufactured in accordance with BS1186: Parts 1 and 2: Quality of timber and workmanship in joinery are made from timber with a moisture content between 10% and 19% depending upon their type and location. For long term performance of the door and finish, it is important that the appropriate moisture content is maintained during storage on site and during the construction process. Wherever possible the sequence of deliveries should be coordinated to site requirements in order that doors are not kept on site unfixed for longer than necessary.

Handle Doors Carefully

- Doors and door sets should be handled carefully to avoid physical damage (do not lift by glazing bars) and to keep them clean. When door leaves are protected by shrink-wrapping or other packaging this should be kept in place as long as possible.
- Doors delivered untreated should be sealed or knotted and primed on all faces and edges immediately after delivery.
- Never hang a door before applying a protective coating.
- Store doors under cover in a dry ventilated building.
- Doors should be stored flat (never on edge or on end) on a level surface and kept clear of the floor on at least three level bearers. The bearers should be longer than the width of the doors.
- Doors should be protected from dirt and damage but without restricting air circulation.

- Natural finish doors should be stacked so that they are not partly exposed to daylight and opaque wrappings must not be torn.
- Exposure to ultra violet light can cause fading or discolouration of timber veneers.
- Whenever possible store doors and door sets in the sequence they will be needed with codes or identifying marks visible to avoid double handling. Avoid dragging them across each other in the stack.
- Doors which have projecting sills or have the hardware fitted must have spacers between them in the stack to avoid damage.
- Protect doors during site operations.
- Ensure that the moisture content of the wood is kept close to the level at which it was when the door was manufactured.
- Internal doors must be conditioned to the service conditions before fixing. They must be protected from abnormal heat, extreme dryness, humid conditions or sudden changes of temperature or humidity.
- Doors should not be stored or fitted in the building until the wet trades are finished and dried out.
- Treat doors like a piece of furniture.
- Factory finished door frames or door linings should ideally be fitted into preformed openings and not built in to masonry walls.
- Pre-finished doors should retain their protective packaging until the latest possible time, ideally until after internal decorations have been completed.
- If it is necessary to separate the doors from door sets, each door and frame should be given an identification mark so that the correct door is returned to the frame.