



THERMA ELITE™ FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS AND CARE

Your new Therma Elite door has been designed to be low maintenance by utilizing materials that are moisture, rust, rot and termite resistant. However, it is critical these instructions are followed to protect your investment and validate your warranty.

Therma Elite comes standard with a complete factory finish including two coats of a premium exterior acrylic primer/sealer and a top coat utilizing white satin acrylic industrial enamel. These instructions are intended for owners who desire to change the color of their door, maintain the door finish by repainting their door or if the door was purchased with only a primed finish.

Maintenance of the paint system, including caulking, is required to maintain your warranty. Maintenance may include paint touch up, sealing, patching, sanding and caulking repair. In addition, depending on your environment, maintenance may include additional coats of primer and/or paint on the entire door exposed surface if any areas of the finish has degraded.

Step 1 – Paint selection

Selecting the right paint can be one of the biggest factors leading to successful field painting. NWD recommends utilizing high quality exterior latex acrylic enamel. Depending on the characteristics of your brand, a primer coat may be necessary to improve adhesion and color uniformity. Dark colors such as black or dark brown should typically be avoided in areas that see high heat such as desert areas due to excessive heat buildup which may cause premature aging of your door including chalking or fading of the paint and general accelerated deterioration of your door's exterior.

Step 2 – Surface preparation

With light grit sand paper, sand smooth any undesired surface imperfections. Dull or lightly scuff the finish using Scotch Bright or a suitable light grit finishing sand paper. Inspect all caulking at the edges of the overlay and replace/repair with a high quality exterior paintable caulk. Any damage to the face of the overlay will need to be filled with exterior wood putty and sanded smooth.

Step 3 – Adhesion test

Checking your paint system for compatibility is always recommended. Typically a minimum of a 1 square foot test patch is recommended. Allow the surface to dry completely prior to testing adhesion. If coating system is incompatible, complete removal is required.

Step 4 – Masking windows

Windows should be masked using painters tape. If changing the color of your door care should be taken to prevent the new paint from leaking behind the window grid. This can cause an unsightly appearance on the interior of the window grid as seen from the inside of the garage. Once your windows have been masked off, it is recommended that you use a clear paintable silicone or caulk around the exterior edge of the window grid to prevent this.

Step 5 – Clean door surface

As a final step prior to painting, the door surface should be wiped down thoroughly with a tack cloth or vacuum to remove all dust, contaminants and debris. Failure to do this properly can lead to paint adhesion failures and/or a paint finish that is not smooth.

Step 6 – Painting your door

It is recommended that you read, understand and follow the instructions that are specific to your paint. Each paint manufacturer, brand or type has different guidelines regarding methods of application, temperature and humidity restrictions, as well as recommended drying times. Not required, but for best results, it is recommended that your door is painted in an indoor, dust free and controlled environment.

Step 7 – Final steps

If your door was purchased with only a primer coat or if coverage is insufficient, repeat steps 2, 5 and 6.

Thank you for buying Northwest Door Therma Elite. Should you any questions that are not answered in these instructions please email CustomerService@northwestdoor.com or call (253) 375-0700.