

Refinishing FRP Wood Grain Doors

Introduction

Special-Lite wood grain FRP doors, such as the SL-18 and SL-19 can show the long-term effects of weathering and UV radiation.

But the doors can be refinished for a like-new appearance.

Refinishing may be necessary in the 7-10 year time frame.

Safety

To safely perform the refinishing, you should have

- ☐ nitrile or a latex gloves
- ☐ eye protection

Depending on the chemicals you choose, you may also need a face mask.

Materials & Tools Required

- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ paint and varnish stripper
- ☐ inexpensive brush for applying stripper
- ☐ 4" to 6" wide putty knife
- ☐ brass bristle brush
- ☐ wire brush
- ☐ mineral spirits
- ☐ tack cloth
- ☐ exterior grade stain (oil based recommended)
- ☐ exterior grade polyurethane
- ☐ staining pads or brush
- ☐ high-quality finish brush

Complete refinishing may be necessary in the 7 to 10 year time frame.

Routine inspection and touch-up with polyurethane coating can postpone complete refinishing.



Procedure



Note

This procedure describes removal of the existing clear coat.

You should NOT remove the underlying stain.

1. Remove the door from its frame. Then, remove all hardware and glass.
2. Use masking tape to mask off the aluminum casing around the perimeter of the door.



Mask off the aluminum perimeter

3. Using a cheap brush, apply the stripper. Allow it to stand for approximately 1 hour.



4. Remove the stripper beginning with the putty knife. Be sure you hold it at such an angle that you do not gouge the sheet. This will remove the clear coat from the higher surfaces.



5. Continue removing the stripper with a stiff wire or brass bristle brush. This will remove the clear coat that is deep in the grain.



6. Repeat steps 1-5 for the other side of the door.
7. Now it's time to clean the door. You can start with air pressure if you have it available. Then use mineral spirits to wipe down the surface, allowing it to dry thoroughly. Then make a final wipe down with a tack cloth.



8. Apply the stain with a brush or staining pad, following the instructions from the stain manufacturer, including drying time.



9. When the stain is dry, apply the first coat of Polyurethane clear coat. Then, follow the manufacturer's instructions for applying a second coat.



10. When the second coat is dry to the touch, re-install the glass kit and glass and any hardware that you removed.
11. Rehang the door.

