

# PAINTING & REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS

## Fiberglass Doors & Frames



### Introduction:

Special-Lite® Fiberglass Doors and Frames provide a corrosion-free solution with long-term durability by utilizing high quality industrial finishes. Whether you are painting a new primed door and frame, refreshing the appearance of an existing entrance, or completing a repair, you may wish to paint our Fiberglass Doors and Frames in the field for many reasons. **These instructions cover the painting and repair of Fiberglass Doors & Frames with a smooth painted or primed finish.**

### Please Note:

- These instructions are general guidelines provided to help prevent problems caused by the most common errors. They are strictly recommendations and are not intended to be a step-by-step, foolproof checklist suitable for every situation. There are many variations not covered in these instructions that Special-Lite assumes are general knowledge to an experienced installer or maintenance professional. We recommend consulting with a paint professional with experience with fiberglass.
- Selection of an experienced professional as well as consulting the instructions of the products used and their manufacturer's recommendations is the sole responsibility of the project owner or responsible party. Special-Lite makes no representations as to the proper use of other manufacturers' products.
- Due to the variability of supplies, application conditions, and techniques, all of which are beyond the control of Special-Lite, Special-Lite is not responsible for the performance of field applied paint or individual application techniques.
- Sanding, painting, or otherwise altering the original finish of the product will void any finish warranties that may apply to the product.
- If you have any questions, please call 1-800-821-6531 and ask for a Special-Lite Customer Service Representative. You can find these and other Instructions on Special-Lite's website at [special-lite.com/installation-instructions](https://special-lite.com/installation-instructions).

### Safety:

- Use proper personal protective equipment, such as goggles and gloves.
- Ensure proper ventilation in the painting area.
- Depending on the chemicals you choose, you may also need a face mask.
- Keep away from heat and open flame, chemical products may be flammable.
- Materials used for mixing and application should be disposed of properly.

Installation  
Resources:



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## Recommended Supplies:

- ☐ Mild detergent, isopropyl alcohol, or MEK solvent
- ☐ Clean water
- ☐ Clean cloths or rags for cleaning and wiping
- ☐ Scotch-Brite™ 7447 General Purpose Hand Pads
- ☐ Fine-grit sandpaper (220-grit & 400-grit)
- ☐ Polyester/plastic body filler such as Bondo and hardener (if any repairs are needed)
- ☐ Primer
  - Priming is recommended for the best surface finish and paint adhesion (even on factory primed doors). Priming is required when completing repairs with body filler. Consult with your local paint store for their recommendation.
- ☐ Paint
  - Special-Lite provides a Touch Up Kit with every painted order for any minor damage or scratch touch-ups.
  - Additional touch up kits and 2-part acrylic urethane paint are available to purchase from Rollie Williams Paint Spot (phone: 1-616-791-6100). Shipping is limited to one-gallon units or smaller, and no more than four gallons at a time.
  - You can use most common exterior grade paint to paint or repaint fiberglass doors and frames. We recommend contacting a paint store local to you, such as Sherwin Williams, to consult with them about the door and frame material and existing finish as well as the type of application the door and frame is installed in. Ensure paint and primer are compatible.
- ☐ High-quality fine natural bristle paint brushes (different sizes for detailed areas and larger areas)
- ☐ Paint rollers of various sizes and high-quality short nap (1/2" or less) roller covers
- ☐ Paint tray or bucket
- ☐ Stir sticks for stirring the paint
- ☐ Drop cloths or plastic sheets to protect the surrounding area from paint splatter
- ☐ Painter's tape (optional) for masking off areas such as glazing you don't want to paint or hardware that cannot be removed
- ☐ Screwdrivers or appropriate tools for removing and reattaching hardware
- ☐ Utility knife
- ☐ Sawhorses with padding are recommended to lay the doors and/or frames on

Ensure you have all these supplies readily available before you start the painting process.

## Step 1: Confirm the existing finish & lay horizontally on sawhorses.

### A. Confirm your door and frame are covered by these instructions:

- **Factory Painted Finish:** Factory-applied acrylic urethane industrial paint is the default finish for smooth fiberglass doors and frames. This painted finish may be satin (standard) or glossy (optional).
- **Factory Prime-Only:** A Prime-only finish is available on our smooth fiberglass doors and frames for field painting. This primer is formulated for use on fiberglass substrates to prepare for polyurethane industrial coating or a similar coating of your choice.
- **These instructions are only for smooth painted Fiberglass Doors & Frames.** For textured FRP door faces (such as on the Composite Fiberglass Doors Series), please refer to the FRP Door Painting Instructions. For stained wood grain FRP door faces, please refer to Refinishing Wood Grain FRP Doors.

### B. We recommend you paint your doors and frames by laying them horizontally on sawhorses, when possible, as this provides the least chance of runs in the paint. However, you may touch up or paint your doors and frames vertically as well.

### C. For most paints, the temperature must be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Consult paint manufacturer for temperature requirements. Avoid applying in direct sunlight and in very warm and humid conditions.

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## **Step 2: Remove any installed hardware & clean any grime off the door and frame.**

- A.** Remove all hardware possible.
- B.** Use a mild detergent to clean any built up dirt or grime off of the door before beginning surface preparation.

## **Step 3: Lightly sand the door & frame surface.**

- A.** Lightly sand the door and frame surface with Scotch-Brite™ 7447 General Purpose Hand Pads or 400-grit sandpaper to remove any surface sheen and promote paint adhesion.

## **Step 4: If necessary, repair any surface damage.**

- A.** If you need to repair damage to the door or frame, make sure you have lightly scuffed the surface with a Scotch-Brite™ 7447 General Purpose Hand Pad or 220-grit sandpaper.
- B.** Then, mix and apply an automotive body filler and coordinating hardener (such as Bondo, or other polyester/plastic body filler recommended for use with fiberglass) following the manufacturer's directions on how to apply the product.
- C.** Sand the repaired area smooth, completing your final sanding with 400-grit sandpaper.

## **Step 5: Clean and rinse the surface.**

- A.** Clean face of door with a clean cloth or rag and mild detergent and water prior to painting. You may also use isopropyl alcohol or MEK solvent. Avoid hydrocarbon solvents as they may leave a residue.
- B.** Rinse well with water and allow to air dry.
- C.** Clean any glass in the door and mask it off carefully using masking tape, trimming excess with a utility knife for a clean edge.

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## Step 6: Apply primer to the door and frame.

- A.** It is recommended that you prime the surface you are painting, with the exception of touching up small scratches. Apply the recommended primer following the manufacturer's instructions with a wide, natural bristle brush.
- B.** If you have repaired an area with body filler, you must prime that area to avoid inconsistencies in the finish. You may prefer to prime the entire surface for the most consistent finish.

## Step 7: Paint the door and frame.

- A.** The primer must be completely dry before applying the paint. Follow the primer manufacturer's recommended drying times.
- B.** If necessary, mix any 2-part paint or sealer. Shake and stir paint well.
- C.** To touch up small scratches, apply paint from the included touch up kit with a small brush.
- D.** For repaired areas, you may wish to coat the entire surface if the area of the repair is visible, as you may be able to see the area of the repair due to a difference in application methods from our factory finish.
- E.** Apply recommended paint using high quality natural bristle brushes for crevices and small areas and short nap rollers for broad, smooth surfaces.
- F.** If applying a second coat, follow the manufacturer's instructions for drying time between coats.