

## How to Paint a Panel Door.

### Checklist

- Primer
- Paint
- 2-mil or 4-mil plastic drop cloth
- Paint respirator
- Bucket
- Soft scrub brush or cloth
- Tack cloths
- Mild detergent solution
- Rags
- 1" paint scraper
- Metal file
- Electric finishing sander or rubber sanding block
- Medium and fine-grit sandpaper
- 2 ½" or 3" angled sash brush
- Chemical deglosser
- Chemical resistant rubber gloves
- Paint thinner

**You can remove the door or leave it in place; whatever is easiest for you.**

### One: Clean the door.

- Use a mild detergent/water solution and a cloth to wash the door from the top down.
- Immediately wipe the door dry.
- Remove any stains.

### Two: Scrape and sand.

- Rather than painting over cracks with a heavy coat of paint, scrape the excess paint away with a 1-inch paint scraper.
- Sand.
- Scrape off other loose paint.
- Smooth the edges between painted and unpainted areas with medium then fine-grit sandpaper.



Wrap sandpaper over the edge of a block of wood to make sanding easier.

### Three: Prepare and prime.

- Use an electric finishing sander or a rubber-sanding block with fine sandpaper to lightly sand the entire door.
  - Paint won't stick to a glossy surface.
  - Sanding also gets rid of imperfections.
- For any place with a lot of details where sanding would ruin the edge, brush on a chemical deglosser right before applying the primer.
- Prime the bared wood.

### Four: Paint panels.

- Paint the panels from the inside out.
  - Start with detailed areas around the panels, and then do the panels.
  - Paint out of corners, not into them.

- Don't apply too much paint at the panel-frame joints. Tip off these areas with a nearly dry brush.

**Five: Paint the door edges.**

- If the door has a different color on either side, paint the edges the color of the side that shows when opening the door against a wall.

**Six: Paint stiles and rails.**

- Paint the vertical and horizontal pieces that frame the panels for last.
- Brush along the board's length.
- Lightly tip off the finish with a dry brush.
- Try to keep the door open for as long as possible to allow the paint to cure fully.

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