
TREATMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF WOODEN GARAGE DOORS

Wood – a natural and renewable material – requires special protection when exposed to outdoor elements. Wooden garage doors must be protected against water uptake and loss, which result in swelling and shrinkage stresses within the wood structure. Exposure to sunlight, on the other hand, leads to UV degradation which can result in wood rot.

Hydro wooden garage doors are pre-stained and treated with a factory-applied dip that contains UV-resistant iron-oxide pigments as well as wood-stabilising drying oils. However, once installed and exposed to the elements, these doors will require additional treatment as well as regular maintenance with a good-quality, penetrating water-repellent wood sealer, not only to prolong the aesthetic appearance of the wood, but also to prevent unwanted cracking and warping and to limit wood deterioration caused by natural weathering and potential rotting.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TREATMENT

(DO NOT USE VARNISH)

Do not use film-forming products such as varnishes on wooden garage doors: these generally do not provide adequate penetration and stabilisation of the wood. Film-forming coatings tend to harden, and are therefore unable to accommodate wood movement. Prolonged outdoor exposure will lead to flaking and peeling.

A good-quality, solvent-based, water-repelling wood sealer will penetrate, nourish, stabilise and protect outdoor timber against water uptake and UV degradation, and is therefore recommended. Penetrating wood sealers enhance the natural beauty of the wood and dry to a clear finish that will not flake or peel. It will erode with time, but maintenance is quick and easy.

For more information and/or technical advice, contact Swartland's Technical Department on 0861 10 24 25 or customerservice@swartland.co.za

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TREATMENT DIRECTLY AFTER INSTALLATION

(Should be done within two weeks of installation)

- STEP 1** Wipe down all exposed surfaces with a clean cotton cloth moistened with mineral turpentine. Ensure that all surfaces are completely dry and clean before proceeding with the next step.
- STEP 2** Use a soft brush, roller brush or clean cotton cloth dipped in wood sealer and apply a liberal first coat to all exposed surfaces in light, short strokes, ensuring thorough and even distribution of the sealer. Allow the first coat to dry for either 4 to 6 hours.
- STEP 3** If necessary, lightly sand all coated surfaces, using 280-grit sandpaper or Mirlon cloth to achieve a smooth finish and wipe clean.
- STEP 4** Apply a second coat of the wood sealer using the same application procedure described in STEP 2. Allow to dry for approximately 24 hours.
- STEP 5** Apply a third and final coat as above.

NOTE:

Because the inside of the garage doors is not exposed to the elements, it only requires a single coat of wood sealer as per STEP 2. Any additional coats are optional.

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REGULAR MAINTENANCE TREATMENT

Inspect all exposed surfaces of the garage doors every three months, and apply a single maintenance coat of wood sealer every six months.

- STEP 1** Wipe all exposed surfaces with a clean cotton cloth lightly moistened with mineral turpentine. If necessary, sand lightly using a 280-grit sandpaper or Mirlon cloth and wipe clean.
- STEP 2** Apply a liberal single coat of wood sealer on all exposed surfaces. and ensure that all end grain and edges are thoroughly coated/sealed. (Follow the recommended application procedure described under STEP 2 above.)
- STEP 3** Leave the sealer on the coated surfaces for 15 to 30 minutes (but not more than 60 minutes) to allow absorption into the wood. Then, if necessary, use a clean cotton cloth lightly moistened with mineral turpentine carefully wipe off any excess liquid, especially on areas where the sealer is still in a good condition, for an even finish.

IMPORTANT:

Do not apply wood sealers in the heat of day, unless working in the shade, away from direct sunlight. Recommended application times are early mornings and late afternoons. Never apply wood sealer to wet surfaces or if rain is forecast. Should rain or water fall on the treated surface within 24 hours of application, blot the free water, allow to dry completely and reapply the wood sealer.

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