

## Real Wood Veneer Finishing Tips

This bulletin provides real wood veneer staining and top-coat finishing recommendations, along with any inherent product limitations. Quanex Window and Door Systems permanently applies both soft and hardwood veneers of various species directly to PVC vinyl window and door frame profiles, providing a hard, smooth, impervious substrate material. A key item to remember is that the wood veneer itself is only approximately .008" thick, and therefore that is all the wood one needs to treat, stain, finish or clean.

### Guidelines:

#### Usage and Limitations

Unfinished, wood veneered interior surfaces must be finished prior to, or immediately after product installation for maximum protection. Unfinished wood surfaces that experience water damage at the jobsite or are left unfinished after installation and become stained or damaged will not be considered as defective in materials and workmanship.

#### Preparation of veneer surface prior to staining or painting

- Surface must be dry, clean, and dirt, grease, glue, and debris free.
- Suggest using a pre-stain wood conditioner before staining to prevent blotchiness and control raising of the wood grain (such as wood conditioner products from Minwax® or Cabot®).

#### Any quality stain should work on veneer profile-wrapped profiles.

- Deep penetrating stains are not necessary, and in fact are counterproductive to obtaining a quality stain finish.
- It is generally best to apply a light stain coat, and then wipe off.
- It may be necessary to apply several light coats rather than one heavy coat.

#### Minimizing appearance of stained finger joints

- Staining will enhance the appearance of finger joints in the veneer surface (if finger joints are present).
- To minimize the appearance of finger joints, apply a clear tint base for wood stain (such as Minwax® Clear Tint Base) on the prepared veneer surface prior to applying stain.
- Note that the application of the clear base may influence the stain appearance on the veneer.

**Note for Pine Interior Horizontal Sliders:** We highly recommend a finish of 2 coats of polyurethane or paint to assure smooth operation where the operator has a wood to wood contact, or a felt weather stripping to wood contact.

### The top coat is the key to protecting the wood veneer.

- The better the top coat, and the better the inter-coat adhesion between coats, the better the protection.
- As even the best windows may develop some moisture that might run down the window frame and accumulate on a bottom horizontal surface, the top coat is critical to providing an adequate moisture seal.

### If opaque paint is to be used, once again select a top quality paint for best protection.

- All good quality house paints should work fine, yet consult with your paint supplier first.
- Again, inter-coat adhesion is an important part of the protection desired.

### Take care when cleaning the surface of the clear top coat or paint.

- Strong, aggressive cleaners, along with any cleaners that are solvent-based, should be avoided, so as not to damage the veneer top coat finish.

### Repair to the veneer surface may be accomplished before finishing.

- Use fillers and lightly sand with fine grade abrasive if a minor surface repair is necessary.
- Take care when sanding - the veneer is only .008" thick.

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