



Steel Door + Window Systems

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Staining Stiles Woodgrain Steel Doors

Required Materials / Single Door

- 1 Qt Minwax Oil-Based Stain (Check local paint supplier for available colors)
- 1 Qt Kelly-Moore or Sherwin Williams Exterior Oil Metal Primer, Tinted
- 1 Qt Exterior oil-based polyurethane clear coat (satin or semi-gloss)
- 3 EA 4" soft-bristle angled paint brushes for oil-based paint
- Mineral Spirits, masking tape, drop cloths, and paint rags

The following steps are required for staining a Stiles Woodgrain steel door. Please keep in mind that the steps we are providing below are a result of our own tests. Whenever possible we have made every effort to follow the paint/stain manufacturer's directions. [Stiles makes no implied warranties as to the stain's application or performance.](#)

This process requires approx. 5 coats: 1) Tinted primer coat, 2) two stain applications, and 3) minimum of two clear coats.

Finishing Steps

1. To prepare your Stiles Woodgrain steel door for finishing, it is important to give the door a good cleaning. Wipe the door clean with denatured alcohol, removing any dirt and/or debris. Repeat until drying towel produces no residue.
2. The choice of stain color you use will determine the color of the primer (base coat) you will apply. An almond color or medium beige oil-based exterior flat metal primer (available from Kelly-Moore or Sherwin-Williams) works best. Thin the primer with mineral spirits to make sure the depth of the woodgrain embossing is not lost by primer applications. Two coats of primer is sufficient. Apply with a brush in the same direction as the woodgrain (vertical). Allow primer to cure overnight.
3. With a soft bristle brush, sparingly apply an initial coat of Minwax oil-based stain over the cured primer following the vertical direction of the woodgrain. Allow to cure for 10-15 minutes and gently wipe with a soft lint-free cloth in a vertical direction. With a dry brush, even the stain out and removing built-up areas around mouldings, panels, etc. Try not to make your first coat perfect. The idea is to just cover the entire door with a base coat of stain that will provide you with the groundwork for applying your subsequent coat(s) of stain. It is the secondary coat that will give the door the look of wood.
4. Follow with a second coat of stain after the first coat has cured for a min. of 12 hours. Repeat the same steps as above, taking care not to put too much pressure on the wiping cloth. Feather any brush marks out with a dry, soft-bristle brush. Repeat with a 3rd coat of stain if necessary.
5. Allow your final coat to dry for a minimum of 48 hours before applying an exterior oil-based polyurethane clear coat to protect the finish. The clear coat can either be brushed or spray applied in a minimum of two coats.