

## **GENERAL, STORAGE, AND FINISH INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHERRY CREEK DOORS AND WINDOWS**

To qualify for the Cherry Creek Express Limited Warranty, all recommendations on this document must be followed. Cherry Creek wood products must not be subjected to abnormal heat or dryness or any moisture. Permanent type heat must be in operation for a sufficient length of time to dry structure before any woodwork or doors are delivered on the site. (Temporary type heat such as salamanders are not considered by Cherry Creek as "drying" type heat, they actually produce moisture.) Doors and Windows must be inspected upon arrival and all claims or complaints must be filed before finish is applied.

### **SITE PREPARATION**

To qualify for the Cherry Creek Express Limited Warranty. Doors and pre-hung systems must be under sufficient overhang to prevent water exposure. or be protected by exterior storm doors.

### **SANDING AND SEALING CONSIDERATIONS**

To qualify for the Cherry Creek Express Limited Warranty. all wood products must be properly sealed and maintained on all surfaces, including top and bottom edges to prevent absorption of moisture, prior to installation into rough openings. Just prior to finishing doors must be completely sanded with not less than 120 grit sandpaper to remove handling marks and raised grain which develops in the normal course of storage and installation. All wood products must be properly sealed and maintained on all surfaces, including top and bottom edges to prevent absorption of moisture prior to installation into rough openings.

### **NOTES ON PAINT SELECTION**

The life span and performance of your wood doors and windows is largely determined by how well they are finished or painted. Finishing doors and windows with dark colors and/or flat paints is not recommended or advised due to well known and documented tendency of these colors and paints to cause excessive moisture and thermal cycling that introduce uncontrolled changes in wood products resulting in wood warp, pitch bleed, bond failures, etc.

Dark colors absorb heat and can easily cause surface temperatures of the wood to exceed 150 degrees F resulting in dimensional stress, splitting and warping. Flat paints contain various chalks. These materials induce excessive moisture migration through the paint layer. The primary objective with wood finishing is to seal the wood resulting in a high resistance to free water and especially water vapor. This objective extends to the need for "balanced finish": a finish that has equivalent moisture and thermal control on both the interior and exterior side of the window. No finish of any type will prevent the migration of moisture in and out of wood, the secret is to slow and control the rate of this moisture exchange in a balanced manner.

### **WE THEREFORE STRONGLY ADVISE:**

1. For painted surfaces, use only **alkyd** oil based exterior primers. Do not use water based primers. For best practice, especially if you are planning to use a latex paint. use two prime coats, sanding between coats. In addition to giving the best moisture protection and insure the best surface for the finish coats. this will have the benefit of reducing the amount of finish paint needed and ease its application.
2. Use the lightest colored, highest gloss finish you can tolerate. Higher gloss equals higher moisture protection and longer life for the wood. Light color and high gloss yield high thermal reflectivity.
3. Use high quality exterior latex or oil enamel finish paints. Avoid vinyl-latex or vinyl-acrylic latex paints. Acrylic latex is OK. Latex paints are more flexible than oil based finishes and are more resistant to cracking due to the natural seasonal expansion and contraction of the wood due to moisture cycling. They tend to need less maintenance. They are less resistant to moisture than oil based paints, but they are a good choice for most applications. Most oil based paints have high moisture resistance, but they are ridged and can be prone to cracking and may require more frequent "touch up" than latex paints. If they are not well maintained all of their advantages are lost due to free water invasion of cracks in the finish. Oil based paints can be considered in severe environments, but 2-part catalyzed polyurethanes like *Sadolin D-Dur* are best. Also consider marine grade oil based products, like *Interlux*, they tend to be formulated to be more flexible.
4. Avoid staining the exterior. There are NO stain systems that approach the moisture control of paints!
5. Staining will require application of a good sanding sealer like *Daly's Benite* or *Pettit's Marine Sealer*, the stain itself, and good topcoats over the stain like *Daily's Pro Fin*, *Sea-Fin* or *Pettit's Bal V Spar Varnish*.

## **PAINTING- STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Store in a clean, dry space with min. Temperature of 60 degree F.
2. Remove all hardware, weather-stripping and any other items that should not receive paint.  
Be careful to label each set of hardware and weather-stripping to assure that they are re-installed onto the original item. Protect glass (tape out) prior to finishing. Avoid exposure of any vinyl parts to cleaning solvents. See Figure 1. (interior and exterior paint locations) included with this document.
3. The finishing process: (refer to figure 1.)
  - a. Lightly sand wood surfaces to remove dust, oil, finger prints, etc. Fill any cracks or joints with spackle or wood filler. Avoid filling or painting weather-strip kerfs (saw cuts).
  - b. Apply alkyd oil based primer (undercoat) top all wood surfaces. Allow to dry.
  - c. Sand lightly using 150 to 220 grit sand paper.
  - d. Re-apply primer over any exposed wood areas. Allow to dry .
  - e. Apply the first finish coat over primer. Use a quality oil base or latex base paint. This coat should be applied lightly (no heavy coats). Allow to dry.
  - f. Sand lightly, then apply second (final) finish coat. Allow to dry .
  - g. Note: avoid allowing paint to drip into the weather-strip kerfs (saw cuts).
4. For stained surfaces: (using scrap fir, do a test seal and stain prior to working on your new windows.
  - a. Apply one to three coats of clear *Daly's Benite* to seal the wood and prevent stain blotch. Follow instructions on *Daly's* can for application and sanding. (dark stains may require more *Benite* coats)
  - b. Hand apply stain coat, wipe dry, allow to dry. Apply additional coats as required.
  - c. Apply clear finish top coats... *Daly's Pro-Fin* or equivalent.
5. When windows are completely finished, re-install hardware, weather-strips etc..  
Be careful to ensure that hardware and weather-stripping is re-installed onto the same window from where they were removed.

### **HELPFUL TIPS:**

- a. Be sure tops and bottoms of sash and doors have extra paint! These locations have exposed end grain and are the most vulnerable to moisture!
- b. Wear gloves and mask if applying oil based paint indoors.
- c. A minimum of 60 degree F is required for paint to dry.
- d. Apply only primer on the edges of double hung sash where sash meets vinyl track.
- e. Exterior doors facing weather are not warranted for performance without storm doors covering them during winter months.

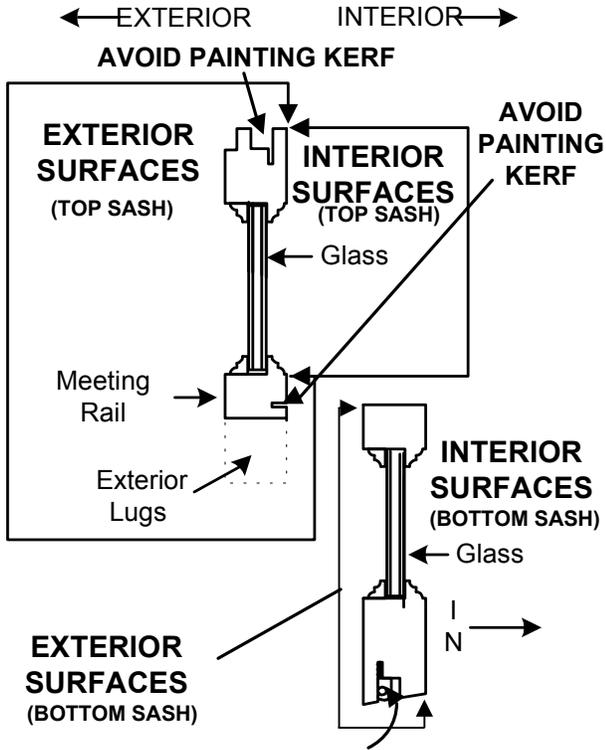
### **CLEANING OF YOUR GLASS:**

After painting/staining work is completed, special care should be taken when removing tape, dirt and paint spots from glass.

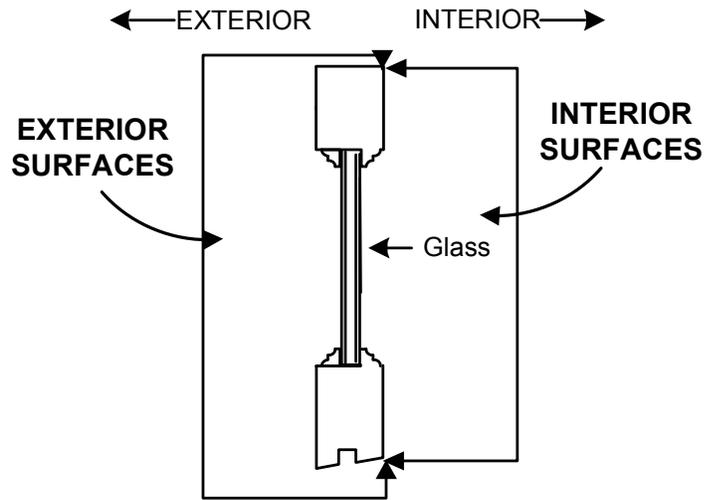
- a. Carefully remove tape from glass.
- b. Using a clean dry paint brush, or vacuum brush, lightly brush all glass surfaces to remove any dirt, sawdust, sand, etc.
- c. Wet glass surface with *Windex* (soak the glass), then again remove any dust, dirt, and debris using a clean, dry paint brush.
- d. Wet glass again, then remove any remaining dirt, paint, etc. Using a single edge razor blade, being careful not to scratch the glass in doing so.
- e. Final cleaning of glass should be with *Windex* and new paper towels.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHERRY CREEK FACTORY: 205-463-3821**

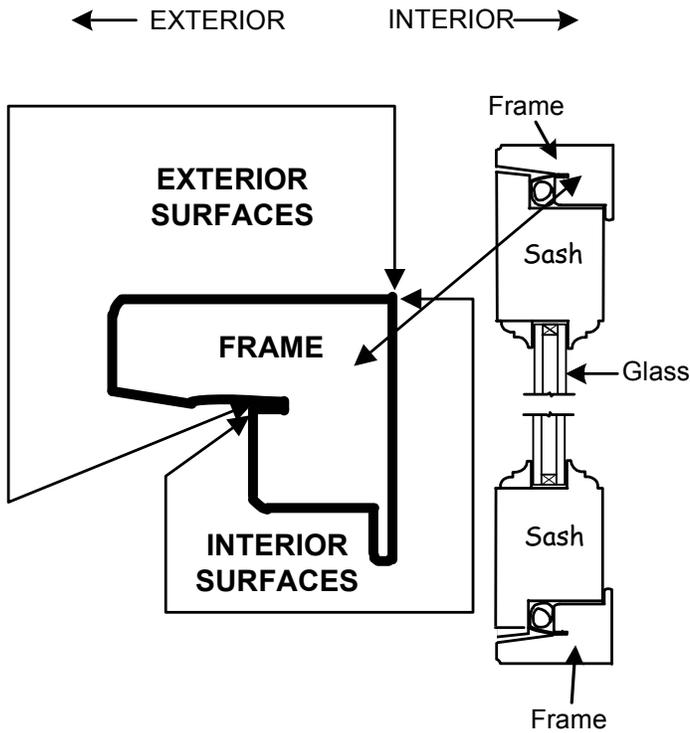
# FIGURE 1. EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR SURFACES



**DOUBLE HUNG SASH  
PAINT FINISHING LOCATIONS.**



**SASH AND SASH ONLY  
PAINT FINISHING LOCATIONS.**



**5900 RETROFIT CASEMENT  
PAINT FINISHING LOCATIONS.**

# Maintenance Suggestions

## Protection From The Elements

Aside from the initial finish, proper maintenance is the most important step a homeowner can take in promoting longevity and lifespan of their windows and doors. As with all components of your home, a routine check-up can decrease the likelihood of larger issues from developing. The following recommendations should serve as a guide to help you maintain your Cherry Creek windows and doors.

(For products other than Cherry Creek, always refer to manufacturer for maintenance instructions)

### **Inspect:**

Paint does not last forever; and under most circumstances here in the Northwest, the paint on your windows will take quite a beating. Because your paint is all that stands between your windows and the harsh elements, it is essential that you look after your paint finishes to make sure they are still adequately covering your windows. For starters, annually inspect the finish on the exterior of your windows and doors. Look for areas that may have any cracks or flaking in the top coat of finish. Pay special attention to horizontal surfaces that may be more susceptible to damage particularly in the location where the glass and bottom rail meet. Don't forget to check the bottoms and tops of the windows. Contaminants such as dirt, dust, mildew and salts are not good for your windows and doors. If built up and left to sit over time, they can become key factors in the degradation of your windows and doors. Keep you windows as clean as possible. Also, caulking tends to shrink over time. Look closely at caulked areas for any shrinkage or cracks. Always remember, raw wood is a no-no. For Southern facing or high exposure locations, semi annual inspections are recommended.

### **Act:**

Immediately seal (putty, caulk, finish, etc.) any areas where moisture could intrude behind the finish. Refinishing may be necessary in areas that have had a breach in the finish. For tips on refinishing, refer to the *General, Storage, and Finish Instructions For Cherry Creek Windows And Doors* documents.