

Field Finish Guidelines



Forte™ Opening Solutions provides a Care and Handling brochure with every unit of doors shipped from our manufacturing facilities. The brochure includes the following guidelines regarding the field finishing of Forte Opening Solutions doors:

- **The contractor or subcontractor has the sole responsibility to achieve an appearance acceptable to the owner for field finished doors.**
- Door orders typically specify only species, grade and cut of veneer. Unless specified, no attempt is made to manufacture doors with flitches of similar color and grain appearance. Natural variations in the wood veneer can be highlighted after the stain and finish are applied to the surface. To produce the best, most durable results, use good quality finishing materials according to the manufacturer's directions.
- When handling the doors, use clean canvas gloves. Bare hands leave finger marks and soil stains.
- When doors need to be field finished, thorough sanding is required. This must be done prior to proceeding with finishing operations as Forte Opening Solutions does not warrant the appearance of field finished doors. For more information, refer to WDMA I.S. 1A, Industry Standard for Architectural Wood Flush Doors.
- It is the responsibility of the field finisher to determine the proper grit sandpaper required and the duration of face preparation necessary to make the appearance of the doors acceptable to the owner. It is recommended by Forte Opening Solutions to start with applying a solution of solvent and sanding sealer to raise the wood grain uniformly. After allowing the door to dry begin sanding the door surfaces using a medium course sandpaper such as P150 Grit and then progress through finer sanding grits P180, P220, and finer (if needed) to the desired surface smoothness of the face. It is important to sand out the scratches of the previous sandpaper grit and to perform the sanding operation while the door is in a horizontal position. If a dark stain is to be applied to light wood, thorough initial sanding is even more important to prevent blotching and to reduce a "barber pole" effect.
- Fillers and wiping stains are most successfully applied when the door is still in the horizontal position after sanding, prior to hanging the door. This permits easier handling of the materials and prevents the solvents from evaporating too rapidly. Rapid solvent evaporation can cause the fillers to streak. It can also cause the wiping stains to "cure" before cleanup can be completed. With the door in a horizontal position, this premature drying is slowed down. All openings and hardware edges should be double-sealed with a good quality sealer.