

Information Data Sheet

Painting Top and Bottom of Interior and Exterior Timber or MDF Doors

The Master Painters of Victoria and Tasmania is regularly asked about the correct procedure for painting doors, especially whether the top and bottom edges of the doors should be painted.

Our usual go to for answers to questions such as this is **AS/NZS2311:2017**. In this case the question is not answered in the Standard.

However, the https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/134355/Guide-to-Standards-and-Tolerances-2015.pdf clearly advises the sealing of doors to be completed on all edges.

Many older tradesman painters will advise that the doors should be sealed on all faces and edges to prevent the uptake of moisture especially in wet area rooms such as bathrooms and laundries.

So, what does the door manufacturers say about this issue? Upon contacting many door manufacturers, we are advised that generally all timber and MDF doors should be sealed on all faces and edges, regardless of whether the door is interior or exterior rated. This is to prevent the uptake of moisture. (Seems the old painters were right!). The warranties provided by the door manufacturer could be voided if the doors are not completely sealed.

The advice of the Master Painters Association of Victoria and Tasmania in answer to this is, if in doubt:

- Follow the advice and recommendations of the door manufacturer in regard to the painting of both interior and exterior doors. This would include the type of paint product and number of paint coats to be used along with any colour limitations the door may have around Light Reflectance Value.
- Ensure the building contractor provides the painting instructions to the painter that are provided with the door, or have these instructions clearly stated in the Scope of Works for the job.
- If the door is not a new door, has been painted before, and top and bottom edges never sealed, tell the painter of your expectations as to what you want them to do **before** the work starts.
- Doors that have had the bottom edge shaved after painting will require resealing in cases such as after new carpet being laid.
- Failing to seal the top and bottom edges of the door is likely to void the door manufacturer's warranty.



All preparation and painting works should be to the AS/NZS2311:2017 - Painting of Buildings