



Wood surfaces must be painted or stained and sealed. Follow your finish manufacturers instructions for application of the finish.

Although the wood on SunClad Wood windows and doors is suitable for painting or staining, unfinished wood is highly susceptible to dirt and debris or contamination from handling as well as exposure to humidity and the elements. Proper finish preparations should always be made prior to applying a finish. This includes removing any dirt, debris, dust, handling stains, etc. that may have collected on the surface. Nail holes should be filled and sanded. Any raised grain or rough surfaces should be properly sanded using step sanding principles. All wood surfaces should have a final, fine sanding to prepare the wood for the application of the finish.

Step Sanding:

Step Sanding is the process of using a graduated series of sanding grit papers to refine the wood surface so that it is smooth and free from scratches, blemishes or other surface contaminants and ready to receive the wood finish. Sanding grits are available from very coarse to very fine. Knowing which grits to use and how to use them is the art of sanding and a major factor in achieving a fine finish. The following steps are basic guidelines to assist you, but are by no means a complete course in sanding.

1. Always sand with or parallel to the grain. Sanding across the grain creates harsh scratch marks that are difficult to remove.
2. If you chose to use a powered sander, for our application you should use a random, orbital sander. This type of sander will leave less sanding pattern marks. It is almost always best to do your final sanding by hand, using a sanding block.
3. Common sanding grits are available as follows: Coarse #60, #80 - then Medium #100, #120, #150 - then Fine #180, #220. Other grits are also available, but for our purposes these grits should provide a sufficient range. The ideal progression of sanding grits is to move from the most coarse in order all the way to the final finest grit. One of the difficulties is determining which grit to start with and then which grit to end with. The general rule is to start with the grit that is just coarse enough to remove the scratches or surface marks you trying to eliminate. If you use a grit that is too coarse, it will create new rough sanding scratches that you will have to remove. If you use a grit that is not coarse enough, you will not be able to remove the imperfections you are after, at least not without a lot of extra work. Once you've selected your starting grit proceed by completely sanding with that grit, then clean all dust and sanding particles from the surface and move to the next grit down (one step finer with each change). This maximizes the effectiveness of your sanding. Each grit is designed to remove the sanding marks left by the previous grit. You follow this progression until you reach the smoothness you require for your finish. It's rarely beneficial to sand finer than #180 grit. If you are applying a paint finish, the paint will fill and build its own surface. If you are staining and or clear finishing, the final top coats will provide the final finish texture.

Final Finishing:

Final finishing can be an art in of itself. In general, use only a high quality paint or wood finish and apply according to the finish manufacturers instructions. Be sure to follow the sanding between coats instructions. This can be the difference between achieving a truly fine finish or one that is just mediocre.