

Moulded Skin Timber Fibre Doors

Key information regarding Design, Installation and Storage

All doors and doorsets manufactured by members of the British Woodworking Federation are designed and manufactured using the best available experience and techniques to produce performance rated products. To guarantee optimum performance after delivery, it is vital that the doors are looked after and installed correctly.

This guide specifically covers all types of moulded wood fibre doors irrespective of the doorskin producer or door manufacturer. If the good practices outlined below are followed, moulded wood fibre doors can be used with confidence.

Background

Moulded wood fibre doors are designed purely for internal use. Moulded wood fibre doors are made from compressed wood fibres and, like all timber based materials, they are hygroscopic and therefore they will absorb moisture from damp air and expand.

In extreme conditions, this can result in the doors distorting. Once distorted, the doors rarely return to normal when they dry out.

Note - Building site conditions in winter are likely to have a higher humidity than in summer. Controlling humidity on site is important to consider as timber building products are affected by changes in humidity, that may affect performance. Building practices that work in summer are not always suitable in winter.

Delivery and Storage

Doors must be stored under cover in dry conditions, stacked horizontally on a level surface on three or more dry battens to give a minimum 90 mm air gap below the stack. If the doors are delivered shrink

wrapped then they should be left wrapped until immediately before use. Doors must not be stored in direct contact with the floor and should not be in the building while it is being plastered.

Installation

Moulded wood fibre doors should be fitted square, true and plumb. Three hinges should be fitted to all doors where large differences of temperature or humidity on opposing faces can occur (e.g. bathroom, airing cupboard) or where the doors exceed 20 kg in weight. Care must be taken to ensure that the lock is fitted to the side of the door with the lock block. (The position of the lock block is usually indicated on the end of the door).

Special note for Fire Doors:

As far as fire resisting doors are concerned it is essential that they are installed exactly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. These instructions can be obtained directly from the door manufacturer or can be conveniently found attached to those doors covered by the BWF-Certifire

scheme for fire resisting doors and doorsets.

As with all doors, care must be taken to ensure that moulded wood fibre doors are not installed in buildings immediately after plastering or other wet trades. Even in dry lined buildings in winter, it can take several weeks for a building to dry out completely. After the doors are installed good ventilation of the building is vital to prevent the humidity inside rising to an unacceptable level. At night, as the temperature in the building drops,

the humidity inside rises dramatically and the doors will absorb moisture from the air. Windows should be left open to ensure a good circulation of air through the building, both during the day and also at night. In excessively damp conditions distortion may happen within hours of the door being installed.

Fitting doors as late as possible in the build programme will tend to reduce the potential problems arising from the conditions described. The use of pre-finished doors (undercoated or fully finished) or doorsets will allow the fitting of doors as late as possible in the construction programme.

Doors should be left half open at all times to ensure that the conditions on both sides of the door are similar. If a room is sealed by a closed door, or the door opened too far so that it is close to damp plaster, the conditions on each side of the door will be different and this will rapidly cause the door to warp.

If central heating is tested or accelerated drying with heat is applied after the doors are installed, it is especially important that good ventilation is maintained during and after the testing. Testing central heating drives moisture out of the walls, and as the temperature in the building falls the moisture in the air can condense on the door causing it to distort.

Finishing

Moulded wood fibre doors, supplied in the base coated state, should be painted as soon as possible after hanging. Pre-primed skins may vary in colour from batch to batch.

Moulded wood fibre doors should be painted with a single coat of a good quality undercoat, followed by two coats of a good quality top coat. The paint manufacturers' instructions should be followed.

Handling marks can be removed by lightly rubbing with a fine grade of sandpaper. This will probably mean dusting after and re-priming the area.

Painting the door will help seal the door against moisture, but if the door is already in damp conditions moisture can be sealed in and this can have a detrimental effect on the door. The factory applied base coat used on moulded wood fibre doors is microporous and it is not designed to be a paint that will seal the door from moisture.

Pre-painted doors and doorsets should be considered if the building cannot be fully dried out before the doors are installed. Pre-painted doors and door sets can be installed later in the build cycle than conventional doors and the paint can help seal the door against moisture.

Factory finished doors and doorsets are available from some manufacturers.

The door manufacturer may disclaim responsibility for any defect or failure that may subsequently occur which is attributable to non-compliance either wholly or in part with the advice given in this information sheet.

Note: *Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advice given, the federation cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of the information supplied in this publication.*

Further guidance and a list of code of conduct approved manufacturers is available via www.bwf.org.uk

KEY INFORMATION

- Store doors in dry conditions on 3 equally spaced level bearers.
- Fit 3 hinges to doors where large differences of temperature or humidity can occur.
- Ensure the lock is fitted to the side of the door with the lock block.
- Do not install in buildings immediately after plastering or other wet trades.
- Once installed ensure good ventilation of the building.
- Ideally each door should be decorated before being hung in its final position or immediately after hanging.
- Standard unpainted doors are supplied with a base coat which is not a sealer.
- Die Form doors are also available with undercoat and / or fully finished.

