

Painting Doors with Overlays

Surface Preparation

Sanding: Before painting your door, both the steel and overlay surfaces must be suitably prepared and cleaned. Before cleaning the door, thoroughly scuff the entire exposed surface of the overlays, window grilles, and window frames with medium sandpaper. Sand in two directions. Best results are obtained by a machine that sands in multiple directions.

NOTE: Sanding could remove rust-inhibiting compounds from the steel portion of the door, therefore, sanding should be done only to the composite overlays and to damaged areas where bare metal has been exposed (refer to main door instructions for repair).

Cleaning steel surfaces: Prior to painting, clean steel surface with:

1. One cup of Simple Green® or other non-toxic biodegradable cleaner (less than 0.5% phosphate) into two gallons of warm water, or
2. One cup of household ammonia dissolved into five gallons of room temperature water.

NEVER BLEND CLEANERS OR AMMONIA WITH BLEACH.

Use a well soaked cloth, sponge, soft bristle brush, or low pressure garden sprayer. Rinse door with clean water to complete cleaning and allow to dry.

Waxed doors: If the door has ever been waxed, the wax must be removed before painting (doors are not waxed during the manufacturing process). Wax can be removed by wiping the door with a rag saturated with Xylene, which is available at most paint or

hardware stores. Wiping should be done at moderate pressure and Xylene must not be allowed to sit on the door for an extended period of time. Damage to your door's paint system can occur if overexposed to this or other solvents.

After de-waxing the door, clean as stated previously.

What is Light Reflective Value or LRV?

Light Reflective Value is a measurement of how much visible light is absorbed or reflected from a solid surface. LRV is expressed as a value between 0 and 100. A LRV of 0 means that 100% of the visible light is absorbed by the surface. Black surfaces are close to LRV 0. Since these dark colors absorb the most solar radiation energy, they also heat to higher temperatures in direct sunlight. This is the reason black car surfaces are much hotter in the sun, even on mild temperature days.

Painting Door with LRV of 38 or Higher

Paint: Your garage door can be painted with a high quality 100% acrylic latex (flat, satin, or semi gloss) exterior grade paint. A bonding primer is strongly recommended as a first coat to improve the adhesion of the top coat of latex paint. Examples of bonding primers are:

- Sherwin Williams DTM Bonding Primer (B66A50), or
- Sherwin-Williams Bond-Plex Acrylic Coating (B71-200).

Do not use any type of oil based paint or Alkyd modified acrylic latex paint. These paints will void the warranty of your door.

Since all paints are not created equal, the following test needs to be performed: paint should be applied on a small area of the door (following the instructions on the paint container), allowed to dry, and evaluated prior to painting the entire door. Paint defects to look for are blistering and peeling. An additional test is to apply a strip of masking tape over the painted area and peel back, checking to see that the paint adheres to the door and not to the tape. (Note: many modern paints require one week drying time before performing this test.)

After satisfactorily testing a paint, follow the directions on the container and apply to the door. Be sure to allow adequate drying time should you wish to apply a second top coat. Examples of top coats that work with bonding primers are:

- Sherwin-Williams Resilience™ Exterior Paint
- Sherwin-Williams SuperPaint™ Exterior Paint

There are other paints such as Sherwin-Williams Polane® Polyurethane Enamel Paint that do not need a bonding primer. However these are professional grade paints not easily found at retail paint stores. Specialized equipment may also be needed for these professional grade paints.

NOTE: Do not apply paint when door surface temperature is different from manufacturer's suggested temperature range for application.

Failure to follow these instructions will void the door's warranty.

Painting Dark Colors of Less than LRV 38

Doors with overlays can be painted dark colors as long as the following steps are taken.

Paint: A bonding primer is required (except as noted) as a first coat to improve the adhesion of the top coat of latex paint. Examples of these bonding primers are:

- Sherwin Williams DTM Bonding Primer (B66A50), or
- Sherwin-Williams Bond-Plex Acrylic Coating (B71-200).

Paint door with Pre-approved paint

For desired colors of LRV 38 or less, only the listed paints below are approved.

- Sherwin-Williams Resilience™ Exterior Paint with VinylSafe™ Technology.
- Sherwin-Williams SuperPaint™ Exterior Paint with VinylSafe™ Technology.
- Sherwin-Williams Polane® Solar Reflective Polyurethane Enamel Paint (do not use a bonding primer for Polane paints). This is a professional paint grade that is not found in retail stores. Specialized equipment is needed to apply Polane paints.

NOTE: Do not apply paint when door surface temperature is different from the manufacturer's suggested temperature range for application.

Failure to follow these instructions will void the door's warranty.