



Since 1946

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## **FAQS - FIELD PAINTING YOUR PRE PAINTED METAL NORTHWEST DOOR® (NWD) GARAGE DOOR**

Your Northwest Door comes pre finished with a baked on polyester high performance paint system. To maintain your door or if you desire to change the color of your door the following are key points concerning the field painting of your metal NWD garage door. These instructions are limited to 500 Series™, Therma Tech™, Therma Tech II™, Therma Max™, Tri Tech™, Therma Classic™, Modern Tech™, Commercial Therma Series™, 900 Series Commercial **pre painted steel doors**, Infinity Classic™ P12 (*standard white finish*) and Modern Classic™ P12 (*standard white finish*) **pre painted aluminum doors**.

**What paint should I use?** NWD recommends utilizing a high quality exterior latex paint. Depending on the characteristics of your brand, a primer coat prior to the top coat may be necessary to improve adhesion and color uniformity.

**Are all paints the same?** Different paint brands have different instructions. Please be sure to read and follow your paint manufacturer's instructions carefully. In addition factors such as pigment type, binders and additives are all variables that can impact the paint quality and price.

**What do I need to do before I get started?** Surface preparation is the most critical part of painting your door. In fact, most coating failures can be directly attributed to inadequate surface preparation. The method of surface preparation depends on the condition of your garage door, the environment and the expected life cycle of the paint system desired. Preparation focused on improving paint adhesion will yield the best long term results.

- Remove surface contamination such as mildew, oil, dust, peeling paint, foreign matter, sealers and mold is key.
- Solvents or oil based cleaners are never recommended.
- The door should be clean, dull and dry prior to finishing. Scotch Bright can be used to dull finish.
- It may be possible to use an abrasive cleaner to dull and clean your door in one step but your paint system instructions should be consulted.

**How do I know if my paint will adhere?** Checking your paint system for compatibility is always recommended. Typically a 2-3 square foot test patch is recommended. Allow the surface to dry at least one week prior to testing. If coating system is incompatible complete removal is required.

**Does weather matter?** Absolutely ambient temperature and humidity are critical factors to consider. In general, painting should never be done immediately after it rains, during foggy conditions, when rain is predicted or if the temperature is not between 50 and 80 degrees F. **See your paint manufacturer's instructions for specific recommendations.**

**Can I paint my door a dark color such as dark brown or black?** If your door is exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods dark colors are not recommended.

**My door has windows can I still paint it?** Yes absolutely, factory installed vinyl windows can be field painted. Paint selection, surface preparation, priming and avoiding dark colors are critical.

**Is priming necessary?** Your door comes finish painted and therefore a primer coat may not be necessary. But depending on the quality of your paint, the color you have chosen, and the conditions you are painting in, a primer coat is recommended to ensure the best possible paint performance.