



DASMA
Door & Access Systems
Manufacturers Association
International

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

#179

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Wood Garage Door Inspection and Maintenance Guidelines

Inspecting and maintaining the finish of a wood garage door is highly important to help control the effects of moisture, temperature and sunlight on the aesthetic appearance and overall integrity of the door. One primary importance factor is how the doors were originally finished and what products and procedures were employed, especially in regard to the prime and finish coat. Always have the door sections finished prior to install so that all six sides of each section get coverage. Keep in mind that a door finished after installation may void the manufacturer's warranty.

NOTE: If finish is applied to an installed door, the added weight of the applied finish may affect door operation. Contact a trained door systems technician if operation is affected.

After finishing in accordance with DASMA Technical Data Sheet #162, wood garage doors should be inspected, maintained and cleaned (no pressure washing) regularly as needed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, generally every 12-18 months. Frequency is dependent on a variety of factors including type of wood, directional exposure, amount of overhang, elevation (ultraviolet rays), the original finish achieved, and the quality of product used. Although the extent of weathering and the possible need for refinishing is a unique concern for wood products, an overall inspection should be undertaken as for any type of garage door in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. **Top Coat Condition:** Look for fading, peeling, chipping, or any residual build up. In addition, if the door looks or feels "dry" it is probably a good indication as to the necessity of finish maintenance. In places where the finish appears to be eroded or thin, first clean and properly prepare those areas. Products should be used that are compatible with the original finish. Consult the finish manufacturer's guidelines for further information on cleaning, maintenance and refinishing.
2. **Shrinkage/Expansion:** This condition should be addressed by filling, caulking, sanding, and applying another top coat of finish.

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Commercial & Residential Garage Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

3. **Surface Smoothness:** Light sanding of the entire face of the door may be required prior to reapplication of any paint or stain.
4. **Integrity of the Wood:** Visually inspect the wood at all hardware attachment points. The method of attachment should be designed to withstand weathering in the climate in which the door is sold. No splits or knots should be within 2 inches of any fastening into the wood. If any hardware appears to be loose, do not operate the door until inspected by a trained door systems technician. The bottom section is a location of most water infiltration due to moisture wicking up from the bottom, or pooling on a horizontal cross member and then seeping down to the internal membrane or core. The top section is of concern particularly where an operator arm bracket and the top roller brackets are attached.
5. **Operational Hardware:** Springs, hinges, track and cable are included in this category. See DASMA Technical Data Sheet #167 for a more complete inspection list.

The door should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

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