Best Way to Paint My Garage Door

If you are painting steel or wood garage doors, preparation and using the correct materials are essential for a successful outcome. Steel garage doors require different types of preparation and painting than wooden garage doors. Follow these easy-to-follow steps for the best result.

Painting Steel Garage Doors

Preparation

- Lightly buff or sand imperfections found on your garage door.
- Visually inspect your garage door for exposed metal.
- Apply primer designed to protect galvanized steel from rusting.
- Allow primer time to dry per manufacturer's instructions.
- Once dry, thoroughly clean your garage doors:
    - Dilute one (1) cup of common household detergent, like Tide®, in five (5) gallons of warm water.
    - Wash the garage door with a dense sponge or cloth.
    - Rinse door thoroughly with water until soap and dirt are removed.
    - Use a soft cloth and glass cleaner to clean garage door windows.
    - Never blend cleansers or detergents with bleach.
    - Do NOT pressure wash the garage door.
- Paint door within 24 hours after cleaning.

Painting

- Use high-quality 100% acrylic exterior grade latex paint on garage doors.
- Do NOT use oil-based paint.
- Before painting, follow the paint manufacturer's instructions for applying paint with regard to temperature, sunlight, and number of coats needed.
- When painting multiple colors on a door, use painter's tape to help avoid paint bleeding.

NOTICE: No warranty of paint compatibility is made or implied by Delden. Non-factory painting of garage doors voids the paint finish warranty. Warning: Doors painted with dark color may cause the door to experience thermal bowing. Thermal bowing occurs in a fully closed garage door due to a combination of insulated panels restrained from horizontal movement at each end and a high temperature difference between interior and exterior door skins. Thermal bowing is an inherent characteristic on garage doors with insulated bonded core sections and is not considered a product defect.

Wood Garage Doors

Painting or Staining

- Lightly buff or sand natural surface imperfections. Wipe off garage door with a dry rag.
- Prior to installation, all six (6) sides of each garage door section must be painted or stained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Apply one (1) coat of exterior grade primer or stain to garage doors.
- Apply two (2) coats of high-quality, exterior grade paint or sealer for stained garage doors.
- Dark shades or stains aren't recommended for wood garage doors with southern or western exposures.

NOTICE: Painting a garage door adds significant weight to the door, which may affect the spring settings and the performance of the door and opener.

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