

# The **ZAR** Finishing Touch

*A Complete Guide to  
Wood Staining & Finishing*



**Super-Fast  
Drying  
Finish**

**Also Includes:**  
Door Finishing & Wood  
Graining Instructions



# Getting Started

## Keep These Suggestions in Mind:

1. **Always read the label!** Follow all label directions exactly to ensure a successful wood finishing project. Pay particular attention to all “**DANGER** and **CAUTION**” instructions.
2. Protect your work area by laying lined drop cloths, cardboard or plastic over the floor area.
3. Be sure the area is warm and dry and it has adequate ventilation and good lighting.

## Pre-Plan for a Successful Project.

For best results have everything you need before you start. The condition of the wood you are finishing will help you decide what materials you need to do the job, such as scrapers, brushes, sandpaper, stir sticks, etc.



## New Bare Wood

You may prefer to stain the wood and apply a polyurethane, or you can simply apply the polyurethane over the natural wood.



## Old Clear Finishes in Good Condition

A finish in good condition can be covered with a fresh coat of polyurethane once the surface has been cleaned and properly sanded.



**ZAR®** Furniture Refinisher dissolves any existing varnish, lacquer or shellac finish, evens out scratches, removes dirt and old wax and restores to the original surface without harming the natural surface appearance.



Some polyurethane finishes do not adhere to shellac or lacquer surfaces. It is advisable to remove these finishes before recoating.

To determine finish type use a little nail polish remover on an inconspicuous spot. Nail polish remover will soften shellac or lacquer.

# Using Removers

For factory pre-finished wood floors and paneling use manufacturer's recommended refinishing products.

**WARNING!** If you scrape, sand, or remove old paint, you may release lead dust. LEAD IS TOXIC. EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS, SUCH AS BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD ALSO AVOID EXPOSURE. Wear a NIOSH-approved respirator to control lead exposure. Clean up carefully with a HEPA vacuum and a wet mop. Before you start, find out how to protect yourself and your family by contacting the National Lead Information Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD or log on to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

## Old Paint or Finishes in Poor Condition

If the finish has begun to peel and crack, or the finish is broken or chipped, remove completely to bare wood. Use a mechanical abrator or a paint and varnish remover.



## Removing Old Finishes



**ZAR®** Paint and Varnish Remover is ideal for removing old finishes from vertical or horizontal surfaces. Wear chemical resistant rubber gloves and safety glasses. Stripping projects should be done outdoors in a shady, dry area.

Apply a liberal coat of **ZAR®** Paint & Varnish Remover. Allow from 5 to 25 minutes for the Remover to do the work. If after a gentle scraping you can't remove the bottom layer of paint, apply an additional coat of Remover over the Remover previously applied. Remember, let the Remover do the work for you. Scrape off the old, softened finish with a wide putty knife.

For safety, always scrape away from you. Be careful not to gouge the wood. In hard-to-reach areas, an old toothbrush or steel wool will be helpful.

## Use Remover Products Outdoors.



If you must work indoors be sure to use a non-sparking fan and exhaust all vapors away from you.



# Surface Preparation

## Unfinished Bare Wood Surfaces

Keep in mind, even “new” bare wood can be dirty. Remove all hardware, knobs, hinges, etc. The surface must be clean and dry.

Remove all dirt, dust, grease, wax and fingerprints with a cloth dampened with paint thinner. Allow the surface to dry.

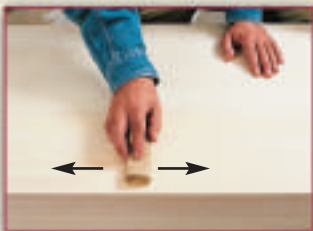
Fill any holes, cracks or staple marks with **ZAR®** Wood Patch. Allow patch to dry and sand according to directions.

## A Smooth Finish Requires A Smooth Start!

Always sand in the direction of the grain. On flat surfaces, use long straight strokes. For rounded surfaces, such as legs or knobs, be sure to sand in the direction of the grain. Sanding against the grain will scratch or scar the wood surface which may show through on your finished piece. Do not over sand. This could fill the pores of the wood by polishing the surface and prevent proper stain penetration.

**Bare Wood:** Sand thoroughly using successively finer grades of sandpaper up to 220 grit, until the surface feels smooth to the touch.

**Previously Finished Wood in Good Condition:** Light sanding with 220 grit sandpaper will help the wood stain or clear finish adhere. After sanding, remove all dust, using a tack cloth or a rag dampened with paint thinner and allow to dry.



# ZAR® Wood Stain

## Different Types of Woods Absorb Stain Differently.

Today's furniture comes in a variety of woods, from hardwoods like Oak, to softer woods like Aspen and Pine. Premium Quality **ZAR® Oil-based Wood Stain** will give you professional looking results on all types of woods.

**ZAR®** Wood Stain's unique controlled penetration full-bodied formula allows you to work at your own pace without the fear of streaks or lap marks.



Match Color Tone on Different Kinds of Woods.

## Do the "Drop Test"

The **ZAR®** Wood Stain "Drop Test" is a perfect way to show you how **ZAR®** is different. Both wood chips at the right show a drop of stain that was allowed to stand on a piece of wood for 15 minutes. When the **ZAR®** Wood Stain, on the left, was wiped out, there was no evidence of the drop or a blotch mark.

However, the sample on the right shows how other stains leave a dark, blotchy spot where the drop was initially placed on the wood.

**ZAR®** Wood Stain is perfect for cabinets, paneling, antiques, wood trim and all types of wood furniture.



# Selecting ZAR®

**ZAR® Wood Stain** is available in 19 natural wood tones plus Country White. **ZAR®** wipes on like furniture polish to stain and seal in one quick, easy application. **ZAR's** "Controlled Penetration" assures a uniform color tone without streaks or lap marks.

Oak

Pine



109 Colonial Pine



115 Modern Walnut

Oak

Pine



110 Salem Maple



116 Cherry

Oak

Pine



111 Walnut



117 Honey Maple

Oak

Pine



113 Fruitwood



118 Dark Mahogany

Oak

Pine



114 Provincial



120 Teak Natural

These chips have been reproduced as accurately as possible in process color lithography.

# Wood Stain

## Remember Different Types of Woods Absorb Stains Differently.

Softer woods absorb more stain than hardwoods. The more stain that is absorbed into the wood, the darker the stain finish will become.

Oak

Pine



123 Moorish Teak



129 Aged Varnish

Oak

Pine



124 Rosewood



130 Driftwood

Oak

Pine



126 Chestnut



137 White Oak

Oak

Pine



127 Golden Oak



138 Spanish Oak

Oak

Pine



128 Early American



139 Country White

These chips have been reproduced as accurately as possible in process color lithography.



# Applying ZAR®

After you have properly prepared the surface, **ZAR®** Wood Stain can be applied. If you are looking for an unstained, natural wood finish, skip this section and proceed to the **ZAR®** Polyurethane Application section.

## Test for Desired Color of Wood Stain.

Find an inconspicuous spot on your piece, such as the bottom and apply the stain with a lint-free cloth. Wipe off and allow wood stain to dry 3 hours.

If a darker color is desired, sand lightly with fine sandpaper, wipe clean, and apply a second coat.



Optional: It is good practice to seal soft open-grained woods or end grain with **ZAR®** Tung Oil Wipe-On Finish or use a wood conditioner. Follow manufacturer's directions.



Softer woods, such as Aspen, Poplar, Lauan, Pine and Fir absorb more stain than hardwoods. The more stain that is absorbed into the wood, the darker the stain finish will become.



Achieve professional results on hardwood floors, woodwork, stairs and doors with **ZAR®** Wood Stain.



# Wood Stain



Wipes on easily with a cloth

## Applying Premium Quality ZAR® Oil-based Wood Stain.

Stir **ZAR®** Wood Stain thoroughly before and during application. Use

a clean lint-free cloth (like an old T-shirt), to wipe on **ZAR®** Wood Stain in the direction of the grain. Then using another clean cloth, wipe off the excess. **ZAR's** "Controlled Penetration" gives you plenty of time to wipe out streaks and lap marks. The amount of stain you wipe off will determine the final wood tone.

**Suggestion:** Do the hard to stain areas of your piece first, such as the table bottom, chair legs or other similar areas.

Allow to dry 3 hours. If a darker color is desired, sand lightly with fine sandpaper, wipe clean and apply a second coat.



**DANGER:** Rags, steel wool or waste soaked with **ZAR®** Wood Stain may spontaneously catch fire if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place rags, steel wool or waste in a sealed water-filled metal container.

# ZAR® Finish Selector

**ZAR® Polyurethane Clear Wood Finishes** offer premium quality protection for wood from ring marks, water stains, alcohol, household acids and alkalis. The finish you choose depends on desired sheen level and how the wood is going to be used. All **ZAR®** Polyurethanes are self-leveling for a smooth even finish.



## **ZAR® Interior Oil-Based Polyurethane:**

Ideal for floors, tables, furniture, bartops and surfaces subjected to hard use.

Available in Gloss, Semi-Gloss, Satin and Antique Flat.

“America’s Original Polyurethane”



**ZAR® ULTRA Polyurethane:** A super fast drying oil-based polyurethane. Dries in two hours on bare wood. Tough abrasion resistant finish. Great for hardwood floors, cabinets, furniture and woodwork. Available in Gloss, Semi-Gloss, Satin, and Antique Flat.

**New!**



## **ZAR® ULTRA MAX Waterborne**

**Oil Modified Polyurethane** features *Dual Drying Technology* for a harder through cure. Dries to the touch in 30 minutes - recoat in just 2 hours. Formulated for floors, cabinets, furniture and woodwork.

“Exotic Hardwood Approved” - Ideal for use on Teak, Brazilian Walnut and other exotic wood species. Available in Gloss, Semi-Gloss and Satin. Cleans up with soap and water. VOC compliant.



**ZAR® Tung Oil Wipe-On Finish:** Wipes on easily with a cloth. Ideal for interior wood surfaces. A smooth, even finish every time. Available in Semi-Gloss or Satin.



**Aqua ZAR® Water-Based Polyurethane:** An environmentally safe, low odor, water clean-up polyurethane formula designed for interior use. Dries crystal clear. Available in Gloss, Semi-Gloss, Satin and Antique Flat.

More information about Aqua ZAR on page 13.

# ZAR® Finish Selector



## **ZAR® Exterior Oil-Based Polyurethane:**

Formulated exclusively for exterior wood surfaces. Contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and anti-oxidants. Ideal for exterior doors, patio furniture, fences and siding. Available in Gloss and Satin.



## **ZAR® Water-Based Exterior Polyurethane:**

Formulated exclusively for exterior wood surfaces. Contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and anti-oxidants. Ideal for exterior wood surfaces, siding, gables, patio furniture and steel and fiberglass entry doors. Soap and water clean up.



## **ZAR® ULTRA Exterior Oil-Based**

**Polyurethane:** A super fast drying clear wood polyurethane finish. Dries in two hours. Contains ultraviolet radiation absorbers and anti-oxidants. Available in Gloss and Satin.

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## **Sanding Sealer**

Sanding sealer greatly enhances the beauty of wood. Though not a required step, sanding sealers are generally used for fine wood finishing and for floor finishing.

A sanding sealer performs two functions: One function is to raise any remaining grain or fuzzy wood fibers which makes final sanding easier. The other function is to seal the wood which allows even flow of subsequent polyurethane top-coats resulting in a higher, more durable, film-build.



**ZAR® Quick Dry Sanding Sealer** (For use under oil-based polyurethane) is a fast drying sanding sealer for interior wood floors, furniture, paneling, cabinets, countertops and woodwork. Dries in one hour on bare wood.



**Aqua ZAR® Interior Clear Water-Based Sanding Sealer** (For use with water-based polyurethane) is an excellent stain/sanding sealer for use under Aqua ZAR® Water-Based Polyurethane. Use it over bare wood to seal the wood and maintain the natural beauty or

over light-colored stains. Aqua ZAR® Sanding Sealer prevents drawing naturally occurring tannins to the wood surface. Aqua ZAR® Sanding Sealer is formulated to stop water extractable stains common with such woods as Red Oak and White Oak.



# ZAR® Oil-Base Polyurethane



## Flows on evenly – Self-leveling

**Never shake a clear finish.** Shaking will produce air bubbles which may get trapped in your finish. If required, stir the finish according to the label instructions.

If you are applying the polyurethane over a wood stain, sand the stain lightly and remove all sanding dust with a tack rag. Apply **ZAR®** Polyurethane using a clean, high quality natural or nylon bristle brush. Dip the brush into the can and let the excess drip off.



Flow **ZAR®** on using long even strokes in the direction of the grain. Do not over-brush the finish. **ZAR®** is self-leveling for a smooth even finish.

After applying the polyurethane, leave the room and close the door. Foot traffic and air circulation may stir up dust in the room which may settle on your finish. Allow to dry 4-6 hours. Sand lightly between coats. Apply 2 coats. For floors apply 3 coats. Allow final coat to dry 12-14 hours.

Clean brushes and application tools immediately after use with **UGL® Fastrip®** Brush Cleaner or paint thinner.

If you prefer an easy to use wipe on polyurethane finish, use **ZAR® Tung Oil Wipe-On Finish**.



**ZAR® Tung-Oil Wipe On Finish** is easily applied to spindles or flat wood surfaces with a cloth for a smooth and durable finish every time.

Wipe on a liberal amount in the direction of the grain. Allow to dry 6 hours between coats.





# Aqua ZAR® Polyurethane

**Aqua ZAR® Water-Based Polyurethane** is an environmentally safe, clear wood finish specially formulated to protect and beautify cabinets, furniture, wall paneling, woodwork and floors. "Exotic Hardwoods Approved" - Ideal for use on Teak, Brazilian Walnut and other exotic wood species. **Aqua ZAR®** dries crystal clear, making it the ideal finish to use over light-colored or white stains.\*

**Aqua ZAR®**'s full-bodied formula brushes on like a conventional polyurethane giving a high film-build for maximum durability and beauty.

**\*Note:** On woods containing tannins (water extractable stains), such as Red Oak, White Oak, Cedar, Redwood or over a white stain, apply **Aqua ZAR® Interior Clear Water-Based Sanding Sealer** prior to top coating with **Aqua ZAR®**. This procedure will prevent any tannins from bleeding through to the surface.

Sand the wood thoroughly in the direction of the grain. Do not use steel wool and be sure to vacuum all dust.

**Flow Aqua ZAR® on in the direction of the grain** using a clean synthetic fiber or foam brush.

Apply thin coats at the rate of 100-125 square feet per quart. Allow 2 hours drying between coats. Sand lightly, vacuum all dust and apply a second coat. If while sanding, sandpaper gums or surface feels tacky, extend drying times.

Brushes and tools clean up easily with warm, soapy water.



# ZAR® Exterior Finishes

Wood surfaces exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods should be protected with **ZAR® Exterior Polyurethane** or **ZAR® Exterior Water-Based Polyurethane**.

For wood surfaces protected by overhangs or porches, and on the inside surfaces of doors, apply Premium Quality **ZAR® Interior Polyurethane**.

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## **ZAR® ULTRA Exterior Oil-Based Polyurethane**

### **Application**

**Never shake a clear finish.** Shaking will produce air bubbles which may get trapped in your finish. If required, stir the finish according to the label instructions.

Apply **ZAR® Exterior Polyurethane** using a clean, natural bristle brush. Dip the brush into the can and let the excess drip off. Flow **ZAR®** on using long even strokes in the direction of the grain. Do not over-brush the finish. **ZAR®** is self-leveling for a smooth even finish. Allow 2 hours drying between coats. Sand lightly, remove all dust with a tack cloth and apply a second coat. Allow final coat to dry 4-6 hours. Apply 3 coats. Clean brushes immediately with **UGL® Fastrip® Brush Cleaner** or paint thinner.



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## **ZAR® Exterior Water-Based Polyurethane**

### **Application**

**Never shake a clear finish.** Shaking will produce air bubbles which may get trapped in your finish. If required, stir the finish according to the label instructions.

Apply **ZAR® Exterior Water-Based Polyurethane** using a foam brush or a synthetic bristle brush. Dip the brush into the can and let the excess drip off. Flow **ZAR®** on using long even strokes in the direction of the grain. Do not over-brush the finish. **ZAR®** is self-leveling for a smooth even finish. Allow 2 hours drying between coats. Sand lightly, vacuum all dust and apply a second coat. On exterior wooden surfaces apply 3-4 coats. **ZAR® Exterior Water-Based Polyurethane** cleans up easily with warm, soapy water.



# ZAR® on Doors

## ZAR® is Good for More Than Just Wood!

Typically, when you think about a wood stain, the idea of finishing a bookcase, desk or some other piece of wooden furniture probably comes to mind. You may have never considered using a wood stain to finish a door, particularly if your door is made of steel, fiberglass or Masonite®. Well think again, **ZAR®** Wood Stain and **ZAR®** Polyurethanes give those surfaces the rich, beautiful look of wood.

**ZAR®** is ideally suited for all types of doors because of its heavier consistency, higher pigment levels and excellent adhesion characteristics.

**ZAR®** Wood Stain and Polyurethanes have been used successfully on doors made by leading door manufacturers, such as Jeld-Wen, Therma-Tru, Pease, Peachtree, Taylor, Perma-Door, Masonite®, Crest and others. So, when you want to beautify any type of new door - or improve the look of an older door - **ZAR®** is for you.



Fiberglass door finished with **ZAR®** Wood Stain



Steel door grained with **ZAR®** Wood Stain

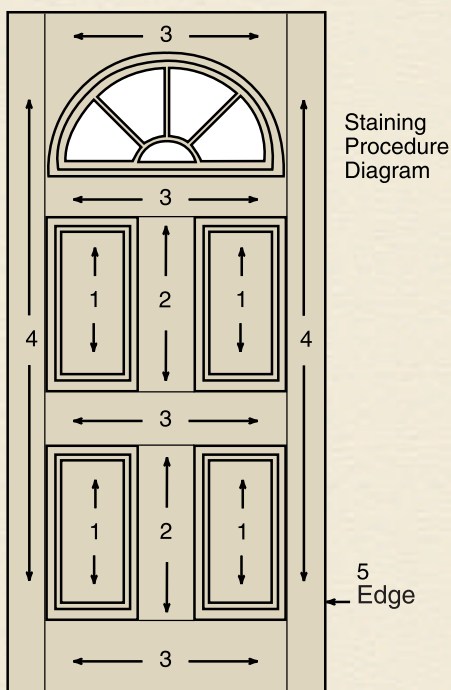
**Please Note:** The stain application directions in this brochure may differ from the instructions on the label of the **ZAR®** wood finishing product you are using. Please follow the directions in this brochure since they specifically refer to finishing doors.

# ZAR® on Doors

## The Correct Procedure

Follow the staining procedure diagram below. Work on one section of the door at a time. The numbers correspond to the order in which you should work. The arrows indicate the direction of the grain for each area of the door. The grain is obvious on embossed wood-grained doors. Here is how to proceed:

1. Stain the inside panels first.
2. Next, work on the inside vertical boards between the panels.
3. Then, work on the inside horizontal boards.
4. The outside vertical boards are the last areas on the face of the door to be stained. It is important to take special care where horizontal and vertical members join. On steel doors, it is your job to make the joints look as natural as possible. It is not hard, but you must exercise care.
5. Finally, stain the door edges. Follow the same procedure when you apply the clear finish. Allow the whole project to dry thoroughly and start enjoying your door.





# Using the Graining Tool

Practice using the Graining Tool on a scrap piece of painted metal or wood or use a panel on the door and simply wipe off the stain repeatedly until you learn the technique. The tool head is rotatable to achieve different graining patterns.



Heartwood Grain



Vein/Straight Grain



Quarter Sawn Grain



Exert downward pressure



While drawing toward you



Slowly rock down ...



Then up, consistently,



until section is complete.

**Heartwood Grain:** Stir **ZAR®** Wood Stain thoroughly. Begin on the inside of panel (1) according to the Staining Procedure Diagram. Wipe on a thin, uniform coat of **ZAR®** Wood Stain.

While exerting downward pressure with your index finger, (2.5 - 3 lbs.), draw the graining tool down the section, moving the tool at a constant speed. While drawing the graining tool towards you, slowly rock it down and up to create a natural heartwood appearance. Remember not to stop the tool while pulling a grain.

If you make a mistake, don't worry. Simply take your stain cloth, wipe wood stain over the area and grain it again. Or completely wipe off what you have applied with a cloth dampened with paint thinner or mineral spirits and start over.

**Important:** Occasionally wipe off the face of the graining tool to prevent the grain pattern on the face of the tool from clogging.



# ZAR® on Steel Doors

## Staining Steel Doors

**ZAR®** Wood Stain and the **ZAR®** Graining Tool are perfect for giving primed steel or painted doors the rich look of wood. **ZAR®** Wood Stain's special high pigment formula makes it ideal for wood graining.

**Note:** Certain steel doors, such as Taylor, Crest Metal and Perma-Door® have a grain embossed in them. For embossed door surfaces refer to **Staining Embossed Grain Surfaces**, page 21, of this brochure.

## Surface Preparation

Steel doors come already primed and are usually gray, buff or white. Whatever the door color, the procedure is the same.



For doors previously painted with a dark color paint or for a more natural wood appearance, apply a buff colored (light tan) prime coat. Allow prime coat to dry thoroughly.

For best results, lay the door on padded sawhorses. Remove all hardware. Clean all dirt, dust and greasy stains with a cloth dampened with paint thinner or mineral spirits.



Wood graining is completed using 2 steps. First you apply a grain coat. Once the grain coat is dry, you then apply a tone coat for the rich look of wood.



## Applying the Grain Coat

Follow the **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16. This will help you achieve beautiful results with the least amount of time and effort.



Stir **ZAR®** Wood Stain thoroughly before and during application. Before graining, wipe on a thin, uniform coat of **ZAR®** Wood Stain using a lint-free cloth or foam brush. Next use the graining tool to create a wood grain pattern.

# ZAR® on Steel Doors

When you grain a steel door, work on one section of the door at a time.

In tight corners where the graining tool can not reach, use a dry brush or cheesecloth to simulate a wood grain look.

Once you have the grained look you want, allow the door to dry for 24 hours or longer depending on drying conditions.

## Applying the Tone Coat

Stir **ZAR®** Wood Stain thoroughly before and during application. Wipe on another thin, uniform coat of the same color **ZAR®** Wood Stain in the direction of the grain pattern you created. This is the tone coat and will give the door the rich look of wood. (Do not sand between coats, sanding will damage the simulated grain pattern.)

Use a dry brush to gently feather out streaks and lap marks.



Steel door grained with  
**ZAR®** Wood Stain

You can control the darkness of the door finishing project by the amount of stain you apply. A thin coat will reveal more of the grain pattern. A heavier coat will hide it.

Allow this coat to dry for 48 hours, depending on drying conditions, before applying the polyurethane.

Refer to **Clear Finish on Doors** page 23.



# Protect Steel Doors

## Protect Your Steel Door with ZAR® Polyurethane.

To protect the wood stain and give your steel door a pleasant wood glow, apply **ZAR®** Polyurethane Clear Wood Finish.



For doors protected by overhangs or porches, and on the inside of doors, apply Premium Quality **ZAR®** Interior Polyurethane.

Doors exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods should be protected with **ZAR®** Exterior Polyurethane or **ZAR®** Exterior Water-Based Polyurethane.

The **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16 is a useful guide for applying a polyurethane.

Surface must be clean and free from dirt and dust. Wood stain must be thoroughly dry before top-coating with a polyurethane.

Use a quality natural or synthetic bristle brush, depending on the type of clear finish you choose. Dip the brush in the can and let excess drip off.

Apply a thin, uniform coat by flowing **ZAR®** on in the direction of the grain pattern. Do not brush the finish back and forth; doing so may create bubbles in the finish.

For interior door surfaces, apply 2 coats of **ZAR®** Interior Polyurethane, for exterior door surfaces apply 3 coats of **ZAR®** Exterior Polyurethane. Allow 6 hours drying time between coats for interior polyurethane and 18 hours between coats for exterior polyurethanes. Sand lightly between coats making sure not to cut through the polyurethane finish to the stained surface. Allow to dry according to label instructions.



Apply **ZAR®**  
Polyurethane  
to grained steel door



Steel door grained with  
**ZAR®** Wood Stain



# Wood Grained Embossed Door “Stain & Feather”

## Staining Embossed Grain Surfaces

You can work with the door mounted in place or removed from its hinges. Lay the door on padded sawhorses. Mask the glass adjacent to all window mouldings and remove all hardware. Clean dirt, dust and greasy stains with a cloth dampened with paint thinner and allow to dry.



## Application

### Step 1: Stir ZAR®

Wood Stain thoroughly. Follow the **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16. Apply using a foam brush or lint-free cloth in a circular motion (like you apply shoe polish), working the stain into the embossed grain pattern.



**Step 2:** Next, use your stain cloth or foam brush to smooth the stain in the direction of the grain. Do not wipe off excess stain.



### “Stain and Feather”

Working on the same area you just stained, use a clean, soft paintbrush to gently feather-out any streaks or lap marks. Be sure to feather the corners where the stain tends to pool. Occasionally remove the excess stain from the brush bristles with a clean cloth.



**Note:** Repeat Steps 1 and 2 following the **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16. Remember: “Stain and Feather.”

If a darker color tone is desired, wait 48 hours and apply a second coat, once again following the Staining Procedure Diagram. Remember “Stain and Feather.” (Do not sand between coats. Sanding can damage Masonite® or fiberglass surfaces.) Allow to dry 24 to 48 hours, depending on drying conditions, before applying the polyurethane.

# Wood Grained Embossed Door Squeegee Technique

## Staining Composite Fiber Doors and Embossed Door Surfaces

An option to the one-coat “Stain and Feather” method, is the use of a small window squeegee to force the wood stain into the wood grained embossed pattern of the door. The squeegee technique greatly enhances the grain definition in the door.

Lay the door on padded sawhorses. Mask the glass and remove hardware. Clean all dirt, dust and grease with a cloth dampened with paint thinner and allow to dry.

### Application

**NOTE:** On Composite Fiber Doors the front, back, and edges must be finished to ensure proper protection.

**Step 1:** Stir **ZAR®** Wood Stain thoroughly. Follow the **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16. Apply **ZAR®** Wood Stain using a foam brush in the direction of the grain.

**Step 2:** Next, use a squeegee to remove excess stain forcing the stain into the embossed areas of the door in the direction the grain. Occasionally remove the excess stain from the squeegee's edge with a clean cloth. Working the same area you have just stained and squeegeed, use a clean, soft paint brush to gently feather-out any streaks or lap marks. Be sure to feather the corners where the stain tends to pool. Occasionally remove the excess stain from the feathering brush bristles with a clean cloth.

**Step 3:** Once the first coat of stain is squeegeed into the grain let the door dry for 12 hours. Next, apply the tone coat of **ZAR®** Wood Stain with a foam brush or cloth in the direction of the embossed grain. Remember, a little stain goes a long way. Work the tone coat of stain in the direction of the grain pattern with your foam brush.



# Clear Finish on Doors

A thin coat of stain will reveal more of the grain pattern a heavy coat will hide it. Use a dry soft paint brush to feather out any streaks or lap marks.

Allow to dry 24 to 48 hours, depending on drying conditions, before applying **ZAR®** polyurethane.



Dark Color Tone/Light Color Tone

## Protect Your Fiberglass, Masonite, Composite Fiber or Embossed Steel Door with **ZAR®** Polyurethane.

To protect the wood stain and give your door a pleasant wood glow, apply **ZAR®** Polyurethane Clear Wood Finish.

For doors protected by overhangs or porches, and on the inside of doors, apply Premium Quality **ZAR®** Interior Polyurethane.

Doors exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods should be protected with **ZAR®** Exterior Polyurethane or **ZAR®** Exterior Water-based Polyurethane. Follow label instructions.

The **Staining Procedure Diagram** on page 16 is a useful guide for applying a polyurethane.

Surface must be clean and free from dirt and dust. Wood stain must be thoroughly dry before top-coating with a polyurethane.



**ZAR®** ULTRA Interior Polyurethane, **ZAR®** Interior and Exterior Polyurethane are available in spray formulas.





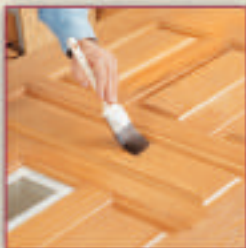
# Clear Finish on Doors

Use a quality natural or synthetic bristle brush, depending on the clear finish. Dip the brush in the can and let excess drip off. Apply a thin, uniform coat by flowing **ZAR®** on in the direction of the grain pattern. Avoid brushing the finish back and forth; doing so may create bubbles in the finish.

When using **ZAR®** Interior Polyurethane, apply 2 coats on interior door surfaces. Allow to dry 6 hours between coats.

When using **ZAR®** Exterior Polyurethane apply 3 coats on exterior door surfaces. Allow to dry 18-24 hours between coats.

Allow final polyurethane coat to dry 24 to 72 hours, depending on drying conditions, before using the door.



Apply **ZAR®**  
Polyurethane  
to grained steel door

## Exterior Doors Care and Maintenance - Inspect Yearly.

Wipe the door using paint thinner or mineral spirits to remove any surface contaminants.

**Repair scratches or dings** using a cotton swab dampened with ZAR Wood Stain. Dab the cotton swab on a clean cloth before touching-up the door to remove excess stain. Then use a clean soft paint brush to feather the repair. Protect the stain with ZAR Polyurethane.

### Determine if polyurethane needs repair:

1. Look directly at the door, then view from an angle off to the side. If no visible discoloration, breakdown or dulling of the polyurethane is noticed. Inspect again in 6 months.
2. If, when looking directly at the door it is satisfactory, however, when viewed from an angle the door appears dull or has a slight white or milky discoloration, buff *lightly* using #0000 steel wool to assure proper adhesion of the polyurethane, tack and apply a coat of ZAR Exterior Polyurethane. Be sure to buff *lightly* to avoid damaging fiberglass or masonite door surface.
3. If you see a milky white cast when looking directly at the door or if the polyurethane is cracked or peeling, you must strip off the old finish using a remover. Reprime the surface if necessary (metal or primed doors), stain and apply ZAR Exterior Polyurethane.



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