

What is what when it comes to selecting door finishes?



Type of door	Advantages
<p>Wood Hardwoods like oak, cherry and maple are warm and age gracefully. Finishes can range from light to dark, glossy or satin. Softwoods like pine tend to be lighter in colour and have a wider grain. They may be distressed, clear finished or colour washed A solid timber door is heavy and consists of a solid frame and solid interior panel. A combination door is lighter and consists of a solid timber frame with a veneer interior panel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural product Gives natural warmth to the home
<p>Wood Veneer A thin layer of fine wood is bonded to a less expensive substrate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less costly than hardwood but normally more expensive than a laminate Grain matching and inlays add visual interest
<p>Laminated doors Thin layers of fibrous material that are impregnated with resin and is bonded together by means of heat and pressure. It is bonded with special adhesive to particle board. Available in High pressure laminates (HPL) and Continuous pressure laminates (CPL) CPL doors are less expensive than HPL doors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laminates are hard wearing and durable and can withstand high impact, heat, scratching, scuffing, staining, boiling water and steam Available in large range of colours, patterns, wood grains and finishes
<p>Melamine Faced Board (MFB) MFB is a seamless, low pressure composite board that consists of resin-impregnated layers of fibrous material bonded to a substrate by means of heat and pressure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available in a wide range of colours and finishes. MFB doors can be edged in different ways which will alter the cost, aesthetics and longevity of the door
<p>Lacquer: Also known as "Duco" Doors Duco = A dual (2) component spray varnish Duco Doors = Duco sprayed onto MDF or Supawood MDF or Supawood is generally 16mm, but can also be 22mm, thick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Contemporary product Massive range of colours, stains & clear (transparent) varnish Smooth, easy to clean surface No exposed seams, i.e. the varnish seals off the MDF core entirely Is relatively water-resistant
<p>Wrap (Ridged Thermal Foil vacuum doors) A foil is adhered to a MDF door through the use of heat applied to the glue in a vacuum process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foils in a variety of colours are foiled onto MDF. Printing process ensures colour/ grain matching consistency They are resistant to most chemicals, greases, oils and to swelling and water damage (of all products available this is the most waterproof) No sharp corners or edging Can be press formed to follow the contours of virtually any shape of door. Raw materials from a renewable source and can be re cycled. Non solvent water based glue Most reputable manufacturers use E rated materials.

Disadvantages	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardwoods can shrink, warp or crack over time in high humidity areas. Softwoods are more susceptible to abuse, nicks, scratching, warping and cracks. Solid wood costs more than veneer or plywood This is a natural product and one piece of timber can look quite different to another due to how the tree has grown. It is not always possible to get consistency in grain, shading and colour. Please check – often companies quote on a solid door to consist of a solid wood door frame and a veneer interior panel. If you want a fully solid door you must specify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never use abrasive products on wood. Alcohol or solvents can soften or fog the finish. Use a mild household cleaner and wipe with a damp cloth. Keep moisture out of the seams and joints to minimize swelling and warping. If you should need to replace a door the colour of the new door will differ to that of the existing doors. This is normal and the door should darken to match the other doors in time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carved or routed details cannot be achieved on the surface of the door. Excess heat and moisture can warp and crack veneers Repairs are costly Stains differently to solid wood Matching of grain and colour can be timeous, costly and difficult This is a natural product and one piece of timber can look quite different to another due to how the tree has grown. It is not always possible to get consistency in grain, shading and colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance is the same as for hardwood doors. Take care to avoid damage to the veneer that would expose the plywood or particle board underneath. If you should need to replace a door the colour of the new door will differ to that of the existing doors. This is normal and the door should darken to match the other doors in time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laminates can't be refinished. Scratches are difficult to repair Dark seams can be unsightly CPL doors have a lower impact and abrasion resistance than HPL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wipe with water and a non abrasive household cleaner. Keep seams and edges dry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFB can chip or crack and has a lower abrasion, impact and scratch resistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat gently Clean as you would a laminate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be susceptible to chipping & scratching Is dependent on the skill of spray painter Spray finishing is relatively expensive. It is used in many up market kitchens both locally & abroad. High Gloss finishes would be more expensive than matt. If there is damage it can be repaired quite easily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very easy to clean due to smooth surface & no seams Treat like a car – the varnish is almost identical If the door is starting to catch or wear make sure it is adjusted ASAP to prevent long term damage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are different processes to foil wrap a door. Resilience to delamination and shrinkage may vary with the method used. A High pressure lamination process will lead to greater durability, sharper detail and hardness than other production methods. Some doors may discolour slightly over time if the foil is inferior and not UV stabilized. Most manufacturers guarantee their products. Foils can shrink if exposed to continuous excessive heat particularly if installed next to an oven that has not been ventilated properly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light non abrasive detergent and warm damp cloth.