

VISIBILITY OF WOOD GRAIN UNDER PAINTED FINISHES WOOD DOORS AND WINDOWS

In our ongoing commitment to quality and craftsmanship, we continuously evaluate and refine our finishing processes to ensure our wood products meet the highest standards.

This bulletin clarifies that the visibility of wood grain beneath a painted finish on wood doors and windows is a normal and accepted characteristic of wood products and is not considered a manufacturing or finishing defect when applicable quality standards are met.

UNDERSTANDING PAINTED WOOD FINISHES

Wood is a natural, organic material. Each piece has unique grain structure, density, pore size, and fiber orientation. Even with factory-applied paint systems, these natural characteristics may remain subtly or even strongly visible, particularly on flat surfaces or under certain lighting conditions. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as grain show-through or telegraphing.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED NORMAL

- › Visibility of wood grain or pores beneath the paint.
- › Slight surface texture related to wood structure.
- › Variations influenced by light reflection, surface orientation, and wood species.

These characteristics are aesthetic only and do not impact performance, durability, or structural integrity.



Industry standards evaluate finish quality based on application and performance, not on the elimination of natural wood characteristics. A painted finish is considered acceptable when color is uniform, coverage is complete, the surface is smooth at the required inspection distance, and no adhesion or coating failures are present.



Examples below of Lepage's Designer Coat Finish on pine.
(This would be accentuated on other species like Mahogany, Red Grandis, Oak, etc.)

INDUSTRY STANDARDS & GUIDANCE

WDMA (Window & Door Manufacturers Association)¹ and FGIA (Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance)² both recognize that painted wood products may display visible grain or pore read-through. This effect is inherent to wood substrates and is not considered a defect when manufacturing and quality criteria are satisfied.

IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER

A perfectly smooth, grain-free appearance can only be consistently achieved using engineered substrates such as MDF or HDF. When natural wood is specified, some degree of grain visibility is expected, unavoidable, and widely accepted across the North American fenestration industry.

The visibility of wood grain beneath a painted finish on wood doors and windows is a normal material characteristic, aligned with recognized industry standards, and does not constitute a defect nor affect product performance or longevity.

¹ <https://www.wdma.com/architectural-door-standards> and <https://www.wdma.com/window-entry-door-and-skylight-standards>

² Voluntary Specification, Performance Requirements and Test Procedures for Exterior Stain Finishes on Wood, Cellulosic Composites and Fiber Reinforced Thermoset Window and Door Components

Do not hesitate to contact our customer service team for any additional information.
Your Lepage Millwork Team

