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GENERAL PAINTING/STAINING, CLEANING and CARE INSTRUCTIONS

for MILGARD ESSENCE™ SERIES WINDOWS AND PATIO DOORS

IMPORTANT: Immediately following installation, all bare and primed wood windows and doors must have a top quality finish applied to the wood surfaces. Periodically refinish or repaint to avoid damage on wood parts. The Milgard Full Lifetime Warranty may be voided when windows are not stained or painted immediately following installation, and periodically refinished.

WARNING: WHEN APPLYING PAINT, STAIN OR OTHER FINISH TO WINDOWS IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT PAINT: weatherstripping or other non-wood parts, metal surfaces including hardware, handles, rollers, etc. or any surface which has an abrasive or sliding contact with another surface. Paints, stains, or varnishes contain solvents which cause plastics or vinyls to dry out and become brittle. Once brittle, they will have to be replaced.

The following finish recommendations have been provided based on our experience with long-lasting wood windows and doors. However, please rely upon your wood finishing professional and the instructions provided by coating manufacturers if the advice given conflicts with the following instructions.

There are numerous ways to finish your windows and doors. Sometimes the type of wood species will dictate different procedures. The following recommendations are for pine, primed pine, or Douglas Fir wood species.

Timeliness of painting or finishing wood surfaces is very important. After a unit is installed and has been exposed to weather and/or interior humidity, it can be difficult to dry the wood surface for a good surface finish adhesion. Unfinished wood surfaces will discolor, deteriorate, swell, and may bow or split. If your windows or doors have been factory-primed, it is still important to final seal/finish the product immediately according to these recommendations.

All pieces of wood are unique. Some wood will have more pronounced grain patterns than others. When finished, the differences may become more pronounced. These are not defects in the wood or the finish. With proper preparation prior to staining or varnishing, the application of the stain color can appear more consistent. Due to the natural differences of wood, raised grain is possible when using a

latex paint or primer. It may be necessary to sand and possibly re-prime in areas where raised graining has occurred. We do not sand after factory primer has been applied, therefore additional jobsite sanding and re-priming may be required. RAISED GRAINING IS NOT CONSIDERED A DEFECT IN THE WOOD, AND IS NOT COVERED UNDER ANY WARRANTY.

General Guidelines for Painting, Staining and Sealing

1. If windows and doors are not installed immediately upon receipt, they must be stored in a warm, dry climate.
2. Milgard treats exposed wood on windows and doors with a water-repellant wood preservative. If any portion of the wood is cut off or otherwise disturbed (by installation or damage in the course of the product's lifetime), untreated wood will be exposed to the elements and will deteriorate. Untreated wood must be protected by a water-repellant wood preservative which contains at least 0.5% IPBC. Apply as recommended by the treatment manufacturer. Failure to retreat properly or adequately voids the Milgard Full Lifetime Warranty.
3. Milgard does not recommend non-water barrier, non-durable finishes such as Tung Oil, Danish Oil, or any type of penetrating oil. These products allow water and water vapor to enter the wood causing potential deterioration and rotting or warpage of the wood. Use of these finishes will result in void the Milgard Full Lifetime Warranty.
4. Milgard Essence rectangular windows are constructed of a method that does not require staples or other finishing holes in the wood surface. However, any holes created in the windows or jamb extensions during installation should be prepped with appropriate putty prior to following the next steps.
5. For all operable windows (double hung, glider, casement, awning, etc.) leave sash or vent open (or remove) when staining or finishing.
6. All interior wood surfaces must be cleaned prior to staining or finishing. Lacquer thinner applied with a clean dry cloth will remove most dust and dirt from wood surfaces. Some residue removal may require the use of a synthetic fiber abrasive pad. Use only a fine finish, light-duty pad (usually a white color), or a general purpose pad (usually a green color). If sandpaper is used, sand very lightly with 220 or 320 grit sandpaper.
7. Do not use cleaners containing abrasives or solvents such as Acetone, Benzene, or Methyl Ethyl Ketone on Milgard products, wood interior or fiberglass, vinyl, or aluminum exterior frames. Clean as described above in number 7, or with mild dish detergent and warm water.
8. If a synthetic fiber abrasive pad is used, it is recommended to again wipe the wood surfaces with lacquer thinner applied with a clean dry cloth.
9. Allow sufficient time for the lacquer thinner to dry completely. A dry wood surface ensures proper paint adhesion. If staining wood surfaces, first ensure the wood surfaces are dry. Next is recommended that you apply a wood conditioner according to the manufacturer's instructions.
10. Before finishing, run a strip of masking tape along the edge of the glass. If you are using paint, leave a 1/16" space between the tape and the wood bead which will allow you to lap the paint onto the glass for a proper seal.

11. When finishing and painting wood applied grids (simulated divided lites applied to the glass surface), use care when applying finish or stain products, as the products may drip behind the wood grids. Since the grids are applied with a VHB (very high bond) tape, liquid products may drip behind the grids onto the glass. A gel-stain is recommended to minimize dripping of product in between grids and glass.;
12. Wearing adequate hand and eye protection, immediately finish all wood surfaces after primer coat or wood conditioner application. Milgard recommends a high quality interior grade latex paint – 100% acrylic or acrylic/urethane latex. The use of alkyd paints is not recommended because they grow brittle with age. Oil based paints are not recommended as they are less durable and have poor color retention.
13. Allow ample time for dry cure period, which may vary depending on interior climate. For paint or stain application, follow the paint or stain manufacturer’s instructions carefully. You must seal all wood surfaces if you are applying a stain finish. Seal by applying two or three coats of a polyurethane-based sealer according to the manufacturer’s instructions. If you plan to use multiple coating products (conditioner/stain/ sealer, or primer/paint), you must be sure that they are compatible with each other.
14. CAUTION: It is extremely important that you do not paint or stain locks, hardware, weatherstripping, sill tracks, or any other surface that comes in contact with another window or door surface.

GLASS CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: DO NOT USE SCRAPERS FOR CLEANING GLASS. GLASS SCRATCHED BY A SCRAPER IS NOT COVERED UNDER THE MILGARD FULL LIFETIME WARRANTY.

CAUTION: Do not clean glass when it is exposed to direct sunlight.

Start cleaning glass at the top of the building and continue to lower levels. Soak the glass surface with a clean water and soap solution to loosen dirt and debris. Then use a mild, non-abrasive commercial window cleaning solution. Dry all cleaning solution from window gaskets, weatherstripping, sealants and frames with a clean soft cloth.

GRID AND INSECT SCREEN CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

To remove dust, dirt, smoke, soot and salt spray from exterior grids or screens, use a mild detergent water solution and a soft cloth or soft-bristled non-abrasive brush. To remove grease, oil or industrial solids, you may need to use stronger solutions such as Mr. Clean®, Soft Scrub®, or Simple Green®. Do not use cleaners containing abrasives or solvents such as Acetone, Benzene, or Methyl Ethyl Ketone on Milgard products, wood interior or fiberglass, vinyl, or aluminum exterior frames.

Mr. Clean® is a trademark of the Proctor and Gamble Company.

Soft Scrub® is a trademark of the Clorox Company.

Simple Green® is a trademark of the Sunshine Makers Company.

MAINTAINING MILGARD® HARDWARE

Your Milgard hardware has been manufactured of high quality, fine materials. Fine metals may require periodic attention to maintain its beauty and finish characteristics. Climate, location, and exposure to corrosive environments such as industrial areas, pesticides, herbicides or salts can affect the hardware's beauty and characteristics.

CAUTION: DO NOT USE OR APPLY HARSH CHEMICALS, ABRASIVES AND/OR CLEANERS. PRODUCT DAMAGE CAN OCCUR.

DO NOT REBURBISH HARDWARE. CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL HARDWARE RESTORER FOR REBURBISHING, OR CONTACT MILGARD AT 1.800.MILGARD.