PROPER PROTECTION FOR EXTERIOR DOORS

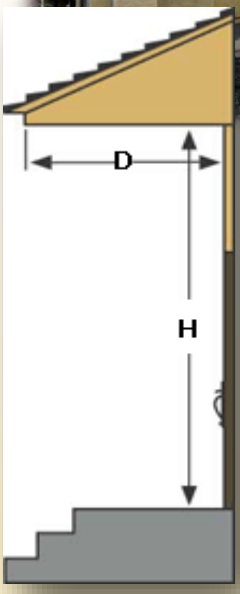
An overhang is required for wood and MDF doors, and is recommended for any type of door. Overhangs protect the door's finish, minimize the need for re-finishing and help keep the weather out of the home. An example formula for determining the correct overhang (in most US climates) is:

D (Depth) = 1/2H (Height).

For example, if the measurement from the base of the door to the bottom of the overhang is 12 feet, then the overhang should extend at least 6 feet. This formula can change based upon the direction the door faces. We will explain how to modify the formula based on these factors.

With proper overhangs, doors may face any direction (north, south, east or west). Doors installed in these types of applications still require finish maintenance. Wood doors, for example, may need to be refinished every two to five years.





EXPOSURE

The climate and the direction a door faces play a key role in determining a proper overhang. Typically, southern and western exposures are the harshest. With southern exposures, the sun beats down on the door from sunrise to sunset. In western exposures, the door receives sunlight in the hottest part of the day. Please consult the following chart of industry standards and adjust the depth of the overhang as needed.

Direction the door faces			
North	South	East	West
D = 1/2H	D = H	D = 1/2H	D = H

In our example, consider a mild climate. If the height (H) is 10 feet, a door facing north should have the overhang extend to D = 5 feet. Facing south, the overhang should extend at least 10 feet. Facing east it should extend 5 feet, and facing west 10 feet as well*.

Without adequate overhangs, doors with a southern, southwestern, southeastern or western exposure will require more frequent maintenance. Doors without appropriate protection may also experience performance problems such as rapid finish deterioration, color fading, wood splitting, warping, moulding shrinkage, wood joint separation, and water penetration between the mouldings, panels, and glass.

* Adequate overhang depends on typical weather conditions of the area where the door is installed. More overhang may be necessary in areas with extreme weather conditions to adequately protect the door. Proper overhang significantly decreases the chance or warping, checking and delamination caused by the sun and precipitation.