

# CLEANING PAINTED SURFACES ON STEEL ENTRY & GARAGE DOORS

## Introduction:

The factory-applied finish on your metal entry door or garage door is a baked-on coating designed to give trouble-free performance for years, with little service required.

This brochure serves as a guide to maintaining the aesthetic and protective properties of the coating for the life of the door. It is important to read this brochure thoroughly and completely before attempting to clean, touch-up or repaint the steel door.

## Cleaning Painted Surfaces:

While factory-applied finishes for steel doors are so durable that they will last many years longer than ordinary paints, it is desirable to clean them thoroughly on a routine basis. Apparent discoloration of the paint may occur when it has been exposed in dirt-laden atmospheres for long periods of time. Slight chalking may also cause some change in appearance in areas of strong sunlight. A good cleaning will generally restore the appearance of these coatings and render repainting unnecessary. An occasional light cleaning will also help maintain an aesthetically pleasing appearance. To maintain the original finish of the steel doors, the only regular maintenance necessary is that of annual washing.

Mild solutions of cleaner or household ammonia will aid in the removal of most dirt. The following are recommended levels:

1. One cup of Simple Green®, or other common nontoxic, biodegradable cleaners, which contains less than 0.5% phosphate, dissolved into two gallons of warm water. **NOTE:** The use of cleaners containing greater than 0.5% phosphate is not recommended for use in general cleaning of steel doors.
2. One cup of household ammonia dissolved into five gallons of water (room temperature).

## Cleaning Supplies Needed:



Household Ammonia



Simple Green®



Water

Working from the bottom to the top of the door panels, the steel door may be washed with either solution.

The use of a well-soaked cloth, sponge, brush (with very soft bristles) or a low-pressure spray washer is advised. We do not recommend the use of scouring powders or industrial solvents since these agents may damage the finish. Solvent-containing cleaners such as Pine-Sol®, however, are very effective and can be used without concern.

If mildew or other fungal growth is a problem and cannot be removed as outlined above, household bleach mixed at a concentration of one cup of bleach to five gallons of water, along with one cup of a mild soap (e.g., Ivory®) to aid wetting, is recommended.

Once the door is washed, thorough rinsing with clear water is necessary to eliminate the possibility of residue. Failure to remove all residues from these cleaning steps may damage the finish.