

HOW CAN I KEEP FRESHLY PAINTED GARAGE DOOR PANELS FROM STICKING TOGETHER?

Painting garage panel doors can be tricky. Painting garage doors with an acrylic latex coating can result in the panels sticking together. Binding of the door, a partial adhesion failure of the coating, or a clicking sound upon opening at minimum can occur. The condition is known as “blocking”.

Blocking – the undesirable sticking together of two painted surfaces when pressed together under normal conditions or under specified conditions of temperature, pressure, and relative humidity.

Thorough coalescence, “cure”, could take as much as a week dependent on degree of gloss, depth of color, temperature, humidity, air flow, and applied film thickness of the coating (see Flex Bon bulletin “The Relation of Dry Film Thickness To Paint Durability”). It should be understood that even after thorough coalescence, some aspects of blocking can still occur if placed under prolonged periods or excessive; temperature, pressure, and humidity.

Tips:

As mentioned earlier, film build is an important factor to consider. Attempts should be made to minimize the film build thickness on the edges of the panels that make contact. As these areas will receive minimal exposure, application to the extent of satisfying aesthetic requirements only should provide enough film build that would not compromise the life cycle of the project.

Start the project by painting the face of the door panels. Then raise the door. Lowering the door to expose the door joints one at a time, paint the panel edges. Allow to dry at least one hour. If the use of a hair dryer is possible, run the dryer over the length of the painted joint repeatedly for a few minutes. Next, apply a thin film of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) over the painted panel edges. This will act as a bond-breaker. Drop the door to expose the next joint and continue process. When all joints are painted, raise the door to ease the compression on the door panels.

A minimum of eight hours dry time is suggested before closing the door to the point of compressed panel contact. Seventy-two hours dry time would be optimum.

Although “blocking” is not an issue with the use of alkyds, after thorough cure, dry time for alkyds is greater than acrylic latex paints. Alkyds also have fade, chalking, embrittlement and saponification issues to consider (see Flex Bon bulletin “Coating Factory-Primed Doors”).