

# TRADITIONAL, COUNTRY CLASSIC, AND WOODLAND SERIES

## VICTORIAN SCREEN / STORM DOORS

Thank you for purchasing this Victorian screen door, carefully crafted in Canada.  
We want you to enjoy your door for many years to come, so please take a moment to read these instructions.

**Why good painting is important.** All wood products absorb and lose moisture, depending on humidity & temperature. The wood will swell and shrink as this happens. This is normal. A good paint system slows the process down so that any movement is very gradual, allowing the wood to gently move without creating stresses which can crack the wood or joints. Your door is made from kiln dried wood. If it's not protected and it's allowed to get damp, it will want to absorb moisture and swell. Movement of 1/8" - 3/16" in width is to be expected, which is why a minimum 1/8" gap should be left around the top and sides, 3/8" under the door, when installing. Movement greater than this indicates a problem with the painting system.

**The location of your door.** Doors exposed to direct sun and rain will need more care and coats of paint during initial painting, and more ongoing maintenance than doors protected by an overhanging porch or roof. Staining, rather than painting, a door in an exposed location may not be suitable. Doors used for other purposes, such as panelling in a screened-in porch, must be mounted with an open air gap underneath to ensure that the door does not sit in moisture.

### UNPACKING THE DOOR

Before proceeding, check that the door is the correct size for your opening. Inspect the door for any defects. Doors that have been cut, drilled or painted cannot be exchanged by your dealer.

### INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

- 1/ The door can be trimmed to fit the frame by up to 3/8" either side, 1" on the top rail and 1 1/2" on the bottom rail. There should be a gap of **at least 1/8"** between the door and frame on all sides. Do all the trimming to size before painting the door.
- 2/ Use three 3" butt hinges to hang the door. These will need morticing into the door and frame. Spring loaded hinges are not recommended. Although easier to install, they will slam the door. These doors are solidly constructed and quite heavy, which is why we recommend butt hinges, used with a pneumatic closer. Hardware kits are available.
- 3/ **Traditional Series Doors only;**- The screen or optional storm is removed by unscrewing the hinge side of the wood screen moulding, opening the door and sliding out the panel. If the door cannot be opened far enough for this, simply remove the top moulding as well.

**Country Classic & Woodland Series Doors only;**- Remove the packing holding the screen to the door, attach the screen using the supplied turn buttons.

### FINISHING YOUR DOOR

Please take the time to do it right, we want you to enjoy your door for many years to come ! If the first coat of paint or stain is not correctly chosen and properly applied, subsequent coats are liable to peel off in time.

- 1/ **Choice of paint.** To validate your warranty, you must use a good quality oil based exterior primer. Finish with a high quality 100% acrylic or oil-based topcoat. If staining, apply at least 3 coats of sealer over the stain. High weather exposure locations may make staining unsuitable. Paints such as deck stains and latex allow moisture to pass into and out of the wood more rapidly, causing the wood to expand/shrink too fast, stressing the joints and possibly leading to failure of the paint finish or door itself. Avoid any paints that say they are "breathable".
- 2/ **Method.** Remove the screen and put the loose piece of screen mould to one side (Traditional Series only). Before starting, make sure the door is free of dust or dirt, sand lightly if required. First (primer) coat should be thinned by 10% or follow paint manufacturers instructions, to allow maximum penetration of the wood. Don't forget the loose piece of screen mould ! Between coats, sand lightly to flatten the surface for the next coat. A full strength primer coat should now be applied, followed by at least two topcoats. Thoroughly cover ALL surfaces, **paying particular attention to the end grain areas at the top, bottom and sides of the door.** Because these areas are not seen, they are sometimes forgotten. Failure to paint these will result in swelling and possible damage to the door **and will invalidate the warranty.**  
*(Pro's Tip; To prevent the paint sticking when re-fitting the screen mould, put a piece of clear adhesive tape on the back)*
- 3/ **Maintenance.** Inspect the door once a year and touch up the finish as necessary. Doors with a bottom panel should be inspected regularly to ensure that the joint between the bottom of the panel and the lower rail of the door is well sealed, preventing moisture from getting in. If expansion/contraction causes the joint to open, caulk and paint.
- 4/ **Problem solving.** If you notice excessive movement in the door, or any sign of cracking in the wood, this is a sign that too much moisture is getting into the wood, caused by lack of paint or incorrect type of paint. Immediately remove the door to a dry location and inspect the door carefully for any areas not properly painted, look underneath! Clean and sand off any loose or damaged paint. Support the door so it won't warp or bend and allow it to naturally dry out. This may take up to 2 weeks depending on drying conditions. Small cracks should be filled with an exterior filler, larger cracks or joints which are open should be filled with an epoxy glue. Sand smooth, then repaint, following the painting instructions.

### GUARANTEE

We use quality kiln dried materials and our workmanship is second to none. We want you to be as proud of your screen door as we are, and so we guarantee the door to be free of manufacturing defects for one full year. Should you have a problem, please contact your dealer for repair or replacement. Please note;-

- ◆ Door must be properly painted or stained on **all** surfaces to validate warranty.
- ◆ A warp or twist of up to 1/4" is not considered a defect.
- ◆ Our liability is limited to repair or replacement of the door. Victorian Balustrade will not be responsible for any installation or finishing costs.

Colonial Elegance Inc.  
3800 Du Tricentenaire, Montreal, QC, H1B 5T8  
Tel (514) 640-1212 or 1-800-361-2030 Fax (514) 640-1744  
[www.colonialegance.com](http://www.colonialegance.com)