Interior Door Care Guide

How to Keep Your VDOM Door Looking Its Best

Eco-Veneer (Film) *PVC / CPL wrap finish*	**Painted (Acrylic)** *Factory acrylic spray finish*

This guide covers everything you need to keep your VDOM interior doors clean and in good condition. Instructions are organized by finish type — go directly to the section that matches your door.

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1. General Care Principles

These rules apply to all VDOM interior door finishes. Building them into a regular routine takes only a few minutes and prevents the most common issues — surface buildup, moisture damage, and finish dulling over time.

1.1 Humidity — the Most Important Variable

Indoor doors respond directly to the humidity in the room. Both eco-veneer film and acrylic paint are more stable than solid wood or natural veneer, but the MDF or engineered-wood core underneath is not — it swells when humid and shrinks when dry. Keeping humidity stable is the single most effective thing you can do for your doors.

> **!**
>
> **Keep indoor humidity between 35% and 55% year-round**
>
> In winter, forced-air heating can drive indoor humidity below 25%. At this level, door cores shrink, paint and film edges can crack or lift, and gaps open between the door edge and frame.
>
> In summer, high humidity causes the opposite — doors swell, become stiff, and may bind against the frame.
>
> A basic hygrometer ($10-$15) placed in the room shows you the actual reading. Run a humidifier in winter and air conditioning or a dehumidifier in summer to stay within range.
>
> Never place a humidifier, diffuser, flower vase, or fish tank directly adjacent to a door.

1.2 Routine Cleaning — For Both Finishes

A consistent routine prevents grime from accumulating to the point where stronger cleaning is needed. This process takes under two minutes per door and should be repeated monthly in most homes — weekly in kitchens, bathrooms, or children's rooms.

- **Dust first.** Use a dry microfiber cloth. Always wipe vertically, following the panel grooves. Dust that collects in profile channels becomes harder to remove once it mixes with moisture.
- **Damp-wipe.** Lightly dampen a clean microfiber cloth with plain lukewarm water. Wring it until barely moist — the cloth should leave no visible water on the surface. Wipe gently.
- **Dry immediately.** Follow with a dry cloth. Never leave moisture sitting on any surface, even briefly.
- **Spot-clean as needed.** For fingerprints and smudges, a drop of mild dish soap diluted in a cup of water on a microfiber cloth handles almost everything. Wipe the spot, then rinse with a barely-damp clean cloth, then dry.

> **✖**
>
> **Never use on any VDOM interior door finish**
>
> Bleach, ammonia, or chlorine-based cleaners — Pine-Sol, Windex, Comet, Clorox wipes.
>
> All-purpose spray cleaners — Lysol, 409, Fantastik. These often contain solvents or alkaline agents that attack both film and acrylic.
>
> Abrasive pads, steel wool, or scrub brushes with stiff bristles.
>
> Acetone, nail polish remover, paint thinner, or mineral spirits.
>
> Silicone-based furniture polish (Pledge) — leaves a residue that clouds the finish and attracts dust.
>
> Steam cleaners or wet mops used near the door base.

1.3 Hardware and Hinges

- **Wipe handles and knobs** with a dry or slightly damp cloth. For tarnish on metal hardware, use a finish-matched metal cleaner — keep it away from the door surface.
- **Lubricate hinges** once a year with a dry PTFE lubricant or a drop of machine oil. A squeaking hinge under load eventually works the hinge mortise loose over time.
- **Tighten loose hinge screws** immediately. A sagging door scuffs the bottom edge and the frame, and puts stress on the film or paint at the hinge zone.
- **Check door alignment** every 6-12 months. A door that drags or binds is usually a hinge or settling issue — address the cause before it damages the door edge finish.

2. Eco-Veneer (Film Wrap) Finish

VDOM eco-veneer interior doors are surfaced with a PVC or CPL decorative film bonded under heat and pressure to the door slab. The film reproduces wood grain textures, solid colors, and matte or satin surfaces with high fidelity, while providing a non-porous, moisture-resistant face that is more practical than real wood veneer in most living environments.

2.1 Key Characteristics

What makes eco-veneer practical — and what its limits are

Non-porous face: spills and moisture do not penetrate the surface if wiped promptly. This makes eco-veneer the easiest finish to clean and the most resistant to everyday humidity.

Heat-sensitive adhesive: the film is bonded to the substrate with an adhesive that softens under sustained heat. Hair dryers, curling irons, and direct sunlight through glass onto a dark-color door can all raise the local temperature enough to loosen edge bonds.

Chemical-sensitive: solvents attack the film and leave permanent clouding, blistering, or discoloration. There is no way to reverse solvent damage on film.

Impact behavior: sharp impacts chip the film differently from paint — the chips are typically clean-edged and noticeable. Deep chips can be filled with a matching color filler but will remain visible on close inspection.

2.2 Cleaning Eco-Veneer

- **Routine cleaning:** follow Section 1.2. Most marks on eco-veneer wipe off with a barely-damp cloth and mild dish soap — the non-porous surface releases dirt easily.
- **Crayon, marker, or dried food:** diluted dish soap on a damp microfiber cloth, wiped while applying light pressure. Attack while fresh — dried marks are harder. Do not use acetone or nail polish remover.
- **Permanent marker or ink:** a small amount of 70% isopropyl alcohol on a cotton ball, blotted (not rubbed) on the mark, then wiped with a damp cloth and dried. Test in an inconspicuous spot first.
- **Stickers or adhesive residue:** apply a small amount of vegetable oil or baby oil to the adhesive, let sit 2-3 minutes, then wipe with a damp cloth and mild soap. Avoid petroleum-based adhesive removers such as Goo Gone.
- **Deep grain texture channels:** use a soft-bristle brush (toothbrush size) with diluted soap solution to work grime out of deep texture grooves. Rinse with a damp cloth and dry thoroughly — soap residue left in grooves dries as a white haze.

2.3 Heat and Edge Protection

The most preventable eco-veneer failure is edge lifting caused by localized heat. On an interior door this most commonly happens in bathrooms (hair dryers, steam) and kitchens (proximity to cooking appliances). Once an edge lifts and dirt or moisture enters underneath, the problem accelerates quickly.

Heat risks for film-wrap interior doors

Keep hair dryers, curling irons, and flat irons at least 12 inches (30 cm) from film-wrapped doors at all times.

Do not hang damp towels on film-wrap doors in bathrooms — the combination of moisture and then hot air from a dryer is the most common cause of bathroom door edge lifting.

Avoid mounting film-wrap doors directly adjacent to cooking ranges, toasters, or other heat-producing

appliances without a heat buffer or adequate clearance.

Sustained direct sunlight through a glass panel or window can soften edge adhesive on dark-colored doors. Use blinds or window film to limit direct sun on door surfaces.

If an edge begins to lift: do not pull it. Press back firmly with a clean fingertip. If the bond has released, apply a small amount of PVA wood glue under the lifted section with a toothpick, press flat, wipe away excess immediately, and hold under light pressure (a book or flat weight) for several hours.

2.4 Glass-to-Panel Joints (If Your Door Has Glass)

⚠ **Never let liquid reach the joint between glass and panel**

The seam where a glass insert meets the surrounding door panel is the most moisture-vulnerable point on any glazed interior door.

Always apply cleaning solution to the cloth first — never spray directly at the door.

Never let soapy water or glass cleaner run into this joint. Even a small amount that reaches the MDF core will cause irreversible swelling — the panel bubbles around the glass and the damage cannot be repaired.

When cleaning a glass insert, work from the center of the glass outward, stopping at least 1/2 inch (12 mm) from the panel edge. Clean the panel separately with its own cloth.

If you see liquid at the joint after cleaning, blot it up immediately with a dry cloth.

2.5 Glass Insert Types

- **Frosted glass:** damp microfiber with plain water for routine cleaning. Diluted dish soap for smudges. Pat dry — do not rub hard, as it pushes residue into the texture. Avoid abrasive pads; the frosted texture is a surface treatment and cannot be restored once scratched.
- **Clear glass:** ammonia-free glass cleaner applied to the cloth, wiped in straight strokes, buffed dry before air-drying. Never let the solution reach the frame edge.
- **Opaque black glass:** ammonia-free glass cleaner on cloth only. Straight strokes, dry immediately. Ammonia-based cleaners (standard Windex) attack the opaque coating through micro-pores at the edge — always use ammonia-free.

Eco-Veneer / Film Wrap

PVC or CPL heat-bonded film

✔ DO	✖ DO NOT
✔ Dust with dry microfiber cloth first	✖ Use acetone, nail polish remover, or solvent cleaners
✔ Use barely-damp cloth with plain water for most marks	✖ Apply heat or steam near the surface
✔ Diluted dish soap for grime, fingerprints, dried food	✖ Hang damp towels on film-wrap doors
✔ Blot ink/marker with 70% isopropyl — test first	✖ Pull or peel lifting edges — press back instead
✔ Baby oil for sticker residue, then wash with soap	✖ Use bleach, ammonia, or all-purpose spray cleaners
✔ Keep heat sources at least 12 inches from the surface	✖ Use abrasive pads or stiff-bristle brushes on film
✔ Press lifting edges back immediately, seal with PVA glue	✖ Let liquid reach the glass-to-panel joint
✔ Apply glass cleaner to cloth only — never spray at door	✖ Use standard Windex on opaque black glass

3. Painted (Acrylic) Finish

VDOM painted interior doors use a professional acrylic coating applied by spray over a primed MDF or engineered-wood core. Acrylic is water-based and cures to a hard, cleanable film that handles humidity cycles well and resists everyday scuffs when maintained correctly. Primed-only doors ship unfinished and must be painted on all six surfaces before installation.

3.1 Sheen Levels and How They Affect Cleaning

VDOM acrylic is available in matte, satin, and semi-gloss. The sheen level affects both appearance and how easy the surface is to clean — higher sheen is more durable and more washable; matte is the softest and most sensitive to abrasion.

> **!** **Know your sheen before you clean**
>
> Matte acrylic: most sensitive to rubbing and abrasion. Clean with the lightest possible touch — a barely-damp cloth only. Never use a Magic Eraser or any abrasive, as it will create shiny patches in the matte surface that cannot be reversed.
>
> Satin acrylic: the best balance for most interior doors. Handles damp wiping and mild soap well. Avoid abrasives.
>
> Semi-gloss acrylic: the most durable and cleanable. Tolerates mild soap, damp wiping, and occasional use of a Magic Eraser (melamine foam) on embedded scuffs. Test in an inconspicuous area first.

3.2 Cleaning Painted Acrylic Surfaces

- **Routine cleaning:** dry microfiber cloth for dust. A barely-damp cloth handles most fingerprints and light marks on any sheen level without soap.
- **Grime and greasy fingerprints:** 3-4 drops of mild dish soap in a cup of warm water on a soft cloth. Wipe, rinse with a clean barely-damp cloth, then dry. Safe for all sheen levels.
- **Scuffs from shoes, belts, or furniture:** on semi-gloss, light scuffs often wipe away with a damp cloth. For stubborn scuffs on semi-gloss only: a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser used very gently, with the lightest possible pressure. Do not use on matte or satin.
- **Stickers or adhesive residue:** apply a small amount of vegetable oil or baby oil to the adhesive, let sit 2 minutes, wipe with mild soap and water. Do not use Goo Gone or petroleum-based removers — brief contact is usually tolerable, but extended contact softens acrylic.
- **Crayon or wax:** remove the bulk with a plastic scraper (never metal). Apply a small amount of white non-gel toothpaste on a soft cloth, rub gently, wipe with a damp cloth, dry.

> **!** **Painted doors — moisture at the door base and edges**
>
> The bottom edge is the highest-risk point on any painted interior door. Wet mopping, floor-cleaning water, and bathroom splash all pool here.
>
> Never seal the bottom edge of an interior door to the floor with caulk in bathrooms or humid rooms — the door needs to be able to breathe, and trapped moisture has nowhere to escape.
>
> Seal all four edges of primed doors before installation and before painting. An unsealed edge on an MDF door absorbs moisture from mopping and will swell from the inside — this damage is not reversible.
>
> In bathrooms, leave a gap at the door bottom and ensure the room has working exhaust ventilation. Condensation that sits on the surface for hours after showering means the room is not ventilated adequately.

3.3 Touch-Up Painting

Factory acrylic touch-ups are straightforward because water-based paints feather and blend better at edges than solvent-based coatings. Even so, spray-applied factory finishes will show brush marks on close inspection in raking light — this is expected.

- **Small chips:** clean and dry the area, apply matching acrylic paint with a fine artist's brush in two or three thin coats. Thin coats dry more durably and blend better than a single thick coat.
- **Larger areas:** sand lightly with 220 grit, clean dust, apply a compatible acrylic primer, then two topcoats.
- **Sheen matching:** always match the sheen level. A satin touch-up on a matte surface is visible even with a perfect color match. Contact VDOM with your order number for the exact color reference.

3.4 Glass-to-Panel Joints (If Your Door Has Glass)

The same rule applies as for eco-veneer doors. Never allow liquid to run into the joint between the glass and the painted panel — the MDF core will swell irreversibly. Apply cleaner to the cloth only, work from the center of the glass outward, and blot any moisture at the joint immediately.

- **For glass types and specific cleaning methods,** see Section 2.5 (Frosted, Clear, and Opaque Black Glass). The same approach applies regardless of whether the door panel is film or painted.

Painted (Acrylic)

Factory acrylic spray or customer-applied acrylic paint

✔ DO	✖ DO NOT
✔ Clean with dry microfiber first, then damp if needed	✖ Use bleach, ammonia, or solvent-based cleaners
✔ Use diluted mild dish soap for grime and fingerprints	✖ Use Magic Eraser on matte or satin acrylic
✔ Blot spills at the door base immediately	✖ Install primed doors without painting all six edges first
✔ Seal all four edges of primed doors before painting	✖ Seal the door base to the floor in humid rooms
✔ Use Magic Eraser only on semi-gloss, very gently	✖ Use petroleum-based adhesive removers for extended contact
✔ Touch up chips with matching acrylic in thin coats	✖ Let water pool at the door base
✔ Leave a gap at the bottom in bathrooms — no caulk	✖ Apply interior acrylic paint on an exterior door
✔ Apply glass cleaner to cloth only — never spray at door	✖ Let liquid reach the glass-to-panel joint

4. For Indoor Use Only — No Exceptions

VDOM interior doors are designed exclusively for use inside conditioned living spaces

Any direct contact with outdoor conditions will cause irreversible damage and voids the product warranty.

Exterior installation: UV radiation, rain, freezing temperatures, and outdoor humidity will delaminate film finishes, swell MDF cores, crack paint, and cause glass seals to fail. Visible damage typically occurs within weeks of outdoor exposure.

Garage installation: garages are not conditioned living spaces. Temperature extremes, exhaust humidity, and concrete floor moisture are incompatible with interior door materials regardless of finish type.

Entry door replacement: VDOM interior doors must not be used as entry doors. They have no weatherstripping rated for outdoor exposure, no structurally insulated core, and no wind-load or impact rating.

Doors adjacent to exterior entries: if a door faces an unheated, uninsulated space — or if outdoor air, rain splash, or frost can reach it — it is not in a suitable environment for this product.

Even within an interior installation, a few location-specific risks apply:

- **Exterior-adjacent walls:** a door mounted in a wall that faces the outside — for example, beside an exterior entry or at the top of a cold basement stairwell — can accumulate condensation in winter as warm indoor air meets the cold wall surface. Wipe condensation promptly and ensure the wall is adequately insulated.
- **Direct sunlight through windows:** sustained UV exposure from a window that projects directly onto a door surface will fade both film and paint over time. Use blinds, curtains, or window film to limit this.
- **HVAC vents:** avoid installing doors directly in the path of heating or cooling vents. Extreme localized temperature and humidity cycling causes paint cracking and film edge stress.

5. Room-by-Room Guidance

The right care routine depends as much on where the door is installed as what finish it has.

5.1 Bathrooms

Bathrooms: highest-risk location for interior doors

Steam from showers temporarily raises local humidity to 90-100%. This is the most aggressive environment for any interior door — including eco-veneer and painted acrylic.

Run the exhaust fan during showers and for at least 15 minutes after. If there is no fan, open a window. A door that sees repeated steam without ventilation will eventually swell or show film edge lifting.

Leave the door slightly ajar after showering to let moisture escape — a closed door traps steam against the panel.

Wipe any condensation off the door surface with a dry towel after each shower. This 10-second habit dramatically extends door life in bathrooms.

5.2 Kitchens

Grease is the main kitchen challenge. It accumulates as an invisible film on surfaces near cooking areas and is easily mistaken for normal discoloration until it has built up enough to be noticeable.

- **Clean kitchen-adjacent doors monthly** with diluted dish soap, not just water. Dish soap is formulated to cut grease; plain water leaves it in place.
- **The back of a kitchen door** (the face toward the kitchen) accumulates far more grease than the opposite side. Do not neglect it.
- **Keep heat-producing appliances** (toasters, coffee makers, countertop ovens) at least 12 inches from film-wrap doors. Heat from these appliances can loosen film adhesive at edges if the door is close enough.

5.3 Children's Rooms

Doors in children's spaces deal with crayon, marker, stickers, scuffs from toys and furniture, and the occasional impact.

- **Eco-veneer doors** are the recommended choice for children's rooms — they are the easiest to clean and the most resistant to moisture and everyday marks.
- **Crayon and most markers** come off eco-veneer with a damp cloth and a small amount of dish soap if caught while still fresh. Dried crayon needs the toothpaste method (see Section 3.2).
- **Stickers:** remove as soon as possible. The longer adhesive contacts the finish, the more residue it leaves. Use the baby oil method for stubborn residue (Section 2.2).
- **Scuffs at handle height** are the most common wear point. Wipe this zone weekly — accumulated grime mixed with hand contact is the main cause of permanent marks in this area.

5.4 Home Offices and Living Areas

- **Sunlight:** sustained direct sunlight fades both film and acrylic over time, and can soften film edge adhesive on dark-colored doors. Use window film, blinds, or curtains to limit direct sun on door surfaces.

- **Candles and incense:** soot from candles deposits a very fine dark film on surfaces, especially near air currents and door gaps. Regular dry-dusting removes this before it builds up enough to require wet cleaning.
- **HVAC vents:** avoid doors directly in the airstream of heating or cooling vents. Localized drying-out from a heat vent is one of the less obvious causes of film edge lifting and paint cracking near the door top.

6. Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

Interior doors need brief attention at seasonal transitions — this is when humidity swings most sharply and early problems are easiest to catch.

Season	What to Check and Do
Fall	Turn on humidifiers before the heating season starts. Check door edges for any gap widening from summer expansion. Inspect film edges and paint at corners for any lifting that happened over summer. Lubricate all hinges before the heating season.
Winter	Monitor indoor humidity with a hygrometer — heating systems can push it below 25%, which shrinks door cores and can crack paint or lift film edges. Watch for gaps opening between the door edge and frame. Wipe condensation off doors near exterior walls after cold spells.
Spring	Transition from humidifier to dehumidifier as outdoor humidity rises. Check and tighten any loose hinge screws after winter settling. Full clean of all door surfaces — grime builds up over winter from reduced ventilation. Inspect glass perimeter sealant on glazed doors.
Summer	Run dehumidifiers or air conditioning if indoor humidity exceeds 60%. Check bathroom and kitchen doors for any signs of swelling or film edge lifting. Ensure bathroom exhaust fans are working properly before the most humid months.

7. Troubleshooting Common Issues

Most problems develop gradually. Catching them early is almost always easier than reversing advanced damage.

Issue	Likely Cause	What to Do
Film edge lifting	Heat, moisture, or impact at edge	Press back immediately. If the bond has released, apply PVA glue under the edge with a toothpick, press flat, wipe excess, and hold under light pressure for a few hours.
White haze or residue in grain texture	Soap dried in deep texture grooves	Re-clean with warm water and a soft-bristle brush to work the residue out. Rinse and dry thoroughly.
Film surface clouded or blistered	Solvent contact — permanent damage	Solvent damage to film is irreversible. The affected panel requires replacement. Prevent by never using acetone, nail polish remover, or solvent-based cleaners.
Paint peeling or bubbling at door base	Moisture wicking through an unsealed bottom edge	Stop the moisture source first. Strip loose paint, dry fully, apply compatible acrylic primer, then two finish coats.
Shiny patch in matte acrylic	Abrasive cleaning — Magic Eraser or scrub pad used on matte	Abrasion damage to matte acrylic is permanent. The area needs repainting. Prevent by using only soft cloths on matte finishes.
Panel swelling near glass insert	Water infiltrated the glass-to-panel joint	Swelling at the glass joint is irreversible. The door panel requires replacement. Prevent by applying cleaners to cloth only and never spraying at the

		door.
Door stiff or binding in frame	Humidity swelling the door edge, or hinge settlement	Check and tighten loose hinge screws first. If the door has swollen, reduce indoor humidity and allow time for seasonal shrinkage before any other intervention.
Condensation on door surface	High bathroom humidity without adequate ventilation	Wipe dry after each shower. Ensure the exhaust fan works and runs for at least 15 minutes after showering. Leave the door slightly ajar.
Glass insert cloudiness at edge	Moisture seeping into glass-to-panel joint	Re-seal the joint perimeter with a clear, neutral-cure silicone sealant. If swelling has already occurred, the panel requires replacement.

8. Warranty and Support

VDOM Limited Warranty — Care-Related Notes

The VDOM warranty covers manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship.

Damage caused by improper cleaning, chemical exposure, solvent contact, moisture from improper installation, or failure to maintain appropriate indoor humidity is not covered.

Installing interior doors in garages, exterior-adjacent unheated spaces, or as exterior entry doors voids the warranty.

Primed doors shipped unfinished must be painted with acrylic paint on all six surfaces before installation. Moisture damage from unsealed edges is not covered.

Keep your order number and purchase documentation. Some claims require proof of purchase and the door model specification.

8.1 When to Contact VDOM

- **A finish defect appears in the first 12 months that is not related to cleaning, installation, or environmental conditions.**
- **You need a matching touch-up paint reference or film color code for a specific door model.**
- **You need guidance on whether a product or cleaner is safe for your door's finish.**
- **You need guidance on whether a glass perimeter seal or sealant has failed on a glazed door.**

Quick Reference

Safe for all VDOM interior door finishes

✔ Dry microfiber cloth — always the first step
✔ Barely-damp microfiber with plain lukewarm water
✔ Mild dish soap, 3-4 drops per cup of warm water
✔ 70% isopropyl alcohol — blotted on cloth, for ink on eco-veneer only (test first)
✔ Ammonia-free glass cleaner applied to cloth — glass inserts only

Never use on any VDOM finish

✖ Bleach, ammonia, or chlorine-based cleaners
✖ Acetone, nail polish remover, paint thinner, mineral spirits
✖ All-purpose spray cleaners (Lysol, 409, Fantastik, standard Windex)
✖ Silicone furniture polish (Pledge)
✖ Abrasive pads, steel wool, or stiff-bristle brushes
✖ Steam cleaners or pressure washers

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