

SPARLING CONSTRUCTION'S EXPECTATIONS FOR WOOD FINISHES

Sparling Construction is committed to the satisfaction of our customers. Therefore, it is important to us that you have realistic expectations of your finishes, whether it's your interior doors, finished hardwood floors, millwork, or the paint on your walls and ceilings. Our intent is to communicate with you, our client, to help you understand the characteristics of wood and the unique challenges in working with different types of wood and trying to get that perfect match.

Hygroscopicity: Wood is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs and gives off moisture according to the humidity surrounding it, even when a finish has been applied. Because of moisture, wood shrinks and swells; this process may cause hairline fractures in the finish at the joints. This shrinking and swelling is normal and does not affect the structural stability or integrity of the joint construction.

Mellowing: When exposed to light, all woods darken and mellow with age. Some species, especially cherry, change in color more than others. When it comes to staining cherry dark, there is much more time needed to achieve the final look. When you compare the color of the millwork we have finished to the color of the existing millwork, there may be a difference because the existing millwork has already aged. Sparling Construction cannot guarantee an "exact" color match because of this mellowing process. Besides the stain color, the same issues can apply to the sheen of millwork. The new millwork has a fresh coat of lacquer versus the existing millwork that has aged and may have lost its sheen due to many factors such as moisture and ultra violet rays from the sun.

Fading/Color-match issues: As it relates to painting millwork, interior doors, exterior doors, siding, walls and ceilings, the challenge can be to match the new to the existing exactly. Exterior finishes fade due to UV rays, pollution, and oxidation which can result in noticeable differences initially. Over time a closer match will be achieved.

As for interior painting many factors can challenge an exact match. Trying to match something existing by even using technology with advanced systems of matching a paint chip does not always yield a "perfect" match. Often times a whole wall, or even a whole room may need to be repainted for just a patch job. Even using the Owner's existing paint can that they have stored in a warm dry place may not yield a perfect match. Why? Because over time certain dyes in the paint formula can evaporate and disappear. This does not become apparent though until the paint is on the wall or millwork and it dries.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Just as no two trees are alike, no two pieces of wood are alike. How and where the tree grows can affect the frequency of mineral deposits, light and dark woods, and grain patterns. This “Natural Process” will result in variations in grain and color throughout your millwork, finished wood floors, wood siding and doors. The grain, texture and color of any sample will vary from another sample. Variations will be more apparent when viewing larger samples, such as entire rooms or viewing the home from across the street. Some species of wood have more variations than others. For example, oak is going to have a multitude of variations whereas maple is more consistent in its appearance.

As it relates to your stained millwork such as casing, baseboard and crown molding there are some important things to know. Casing and crown are milled or cut differently than baseboard. This is why you will often times see a visible difference in their appearance even though you use the same stain.

It's also important to note that your home will take on different shadows or colors throughout the day whether it's from your natural lighting, or interior lighting at night. For example, crown molding in your kitchen may appear a different color from an adjacent wall of cabinets just because of how the light hits it. (Keep in mind we could still be talking about millwork that came out of two separate trees or two different eras of time.)

You will often notice also that your crown molding that is stained may not appear the exact same color as your cabinets. Well, they won't. The crown molding wood was milled differently and runs horizontally. The cabinets are positioned vertically and are most often a more flat surface.

As it relates to patching wood ceilings or hardwood floors, this is not an easy task. Especially if you are expecting the existing wood to be re-lacquered to try and match the brand new wood that has never been lacquered before. The same also applies here that no two pieces of wood are the same. Short of replacing the whole floor, or ceiling, you may not have an exact match. Keep in mind though, even if we replaced the whole ceiling or floor, there still will be inconsistencies in color, grain, and sheen. Wood sometimes just has a mind of it's own and there is nothing that can be done to control it.

Interior wood-stained doors can also pose a challenge. Today most doors, whether a slab door or a 6-panel door, are veneered. Years ago doors were made out of solid wood components; not today. Many times you don't know the outcome of how a door is going to look until “After” the door is stained. There may a blonde streak running right down the middle of the door that sure was not noticeable before it was stained. We have come to the conclusion that most doors are going to have inconsistencies to them, whether it's within the same door, or between other doors going into your new home, business, or remodeled area.

These variations are a product of nature and comprise the fundamental beauty of real wood and are **NOT CONSIDERED PRODUCT DEFECTS, FINISHING DEFECTS, OR ERROR ON THE SIDE OF SPARLING CONSTRUCTION, INC..**

Final Note: It is the responsibility of the Homeowners to pick out, or choose their paint colors and stains. Sparling Construction, Inc. will help if and where necessary by providing different samples, but the final decision(s) as to what color, or sheen to go with on the project, will only be done with prior “written approval” of Homeowner(s).

Authorized Signature for Sparling Construction, Inc./Date:

Acceptance of Agreement - of the above conditions I hereby understand and accept. Any changes that the Owner(s) want redone or replaced to try to get a closer match will be an additional charge that will be added to your bill.

Client Signature/Date:

Client Signature/Date:

CLIENT’S SPECIFIC COLOR-MATCH APPROVAL:

Color/location #1: _____ Sheen/location #1: _____

Color/location #2: _____ Sheen/location #2: _____

Color/location #3: _____ Sheen/location #3: _____

Color/location #4: _____ Sheen/location #4: _____