Appropriate Exposure

The placement of your door is a major factor in its maintenance and longevity. To adequately protect your door and extend its life, you have to do some factoring. You need to take into account your climate, as well as the direction your door will be facing. From there, you have to determine the amount of overhang and the height of the entrance in relation to the base of the door. There are some situations where the exposure can be too extreme for a wood door.

Exposure Coefficient

To help you figure out the correct overhang required for your door, there’s a simple formula to follow: \( Y = \frac{1}{2}X \) in most cases. So for example, if the measurement from the base of your door to the bottom of your overhang is ten feet, then the overhang should be a minimum of five feet deep. The following illustrations and chart should help you in factoring the appropriate exposure for your door.

Other Variables

You also need to take into account the variables specific to your region. Please consult the chart below, and adjust the exposure coefficient formula accordingly.

Without correct overhangs, a south, southwest, southeast or west exposure will require frequent maintenance. Doors with these exposures may experience performance problems, such as rapid finish deterioration, color fading, wood splitting, warping, moulding shrinkage, wood joint separation, and water penetration between the mouldings, panels and glass. Doors used in applications with these exposures will not be covered under Lakeview Millwork’s warranty.

With proper overhangs, doors may face any direction (north, south, east or west). Doors installed in these types of applications still require finish maintenance. They may need to be refinished every two to five years.