

Exterior doors information sheet

All exterior doors in your house and outhouse buildings, whether at the front, sides or rear of your property, are protected features and contribute to the character of the village as a whole. The original doors were built of solid hardwood and if well-maintained, could last for hundreds of years. Given the heritage value of the doors and their significant contribution to the character of the houses, best practice is to repair the original doors rather than to replace them. Replacement will require Listed Building Consent from Wirral Council and permission from Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT).

What to look for?

Exterior doors should be inspected annually. Check for:

- Look for soft, brittle or crumbly wood. In the worst instance, the wood will collapse if you touch it. These are signs of wood rot.
- Have you found insects in the wood?
- If you find signs of rot or insects in your wood, contact an experienced joiner to help you assess the situation.
- If your door has windows, check for cracked or loose panes of glass.
- Look for cracked or failed paint as often the failure of paint finishes can expose wood to rot.
- Does the door open and close easily? If it is sticking, it might have warped and will need to be adjusted.
- Does the door let in draughts? Draught-proofing can be installed by a skilled joiner.
- Is the paint colour correct? The paint colour and code can be found in the [Schedule of Paint Colours](#).

Check that the door is appropriate:

- Some original doors in the village have been replaced by modern designs, especially at the rear. This is not appropriate and, when reasonably possible, the original design should be reinstated.
- All new doors (at the front, sides and back of the houses) require Listed Building Consent from Wirral Council and permission from PSVT. Contact PSVT's Asset Manager (Conservation) to discuss the appropriate design for any replacement doors.

Maintenance or repairs

- Prepare and paint your doors and door frames every five years, or as required. See PSVT's **Schedule of Paint Colours** for the approved paint colour for your house.

- Check hinges and, where necessary, oil or adjust them.
- Clean door hardware and refinish.
- Replace missing or defective putty for glazed doors.

More advanced repairs, such as replacing rotted or damaged timber, should be done by a qualified heritage skills joiner with experience working on listed buildings. All repairs should be done with matching materials, profiles, dimensions and techniques.

Strategies to Improve Thermal Performance of Doors

- A skilled joiner can draught proof the door perimeter of a door very effectively.
- Install heavy drapes in front of the door to block the wind.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with PSVT if you'd like to discuss door replacement or repair. The Asset Manager (Conservation) can come and look at the door and assess whether it is original, capable of repair or draught-proofing. You could also email photos which we can comment on. Contact Asset Manager (Conservation) by telephone on 0151 644-4813 or by email to conservation@portsunlightvillage.com

Lead Paint Advisory:

Paints found in older buildings may contain lead. Lead can be harmful to health, particularly for children. Sometimes lead paint has been covered by later, modern paints. If you are unsure if the paint used in your house (including windows, doors, walls, trim and other surfaces) contains lead, it should be assumed to be present and precautions should be taken when stripping, sanding or otherwise preparing painted surfaces.

Back doors

For information specific to back doors, please see the **Rear doors information sheet**.