



UPSTATE DOOR®  
FINE DOOR SOLUTIONS... ONE SOURCE

PANEL DOORS  
*Selecting the Right Option*



**Understand the differences between Bladder Pressed Panels, Solid Panels, and Rim-Raised Panels**

**CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS**

Paneled wood doors offer a classic look that people often want for their homes. Within the door industry, there are four types of panel construction methods. Each panel varies in quality and style.

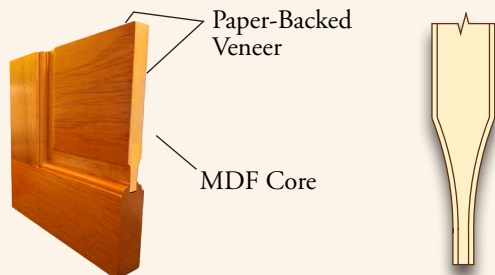
- **Bladder Pressed Panels:** This type of panel is made completely out of MDF and has paper-backed veneer affixed onto the front of the panel. We typically recommend this construction only when crafting non-architectural projects.
- **Solid Wood Panels:** This style of panel offers that traditional wood look and is made of a solid piece or pieces of wood, and may have a material in between the wood. The grain does not follow from panel to panel and is not consistent in color.
- **Rim-Raised Panels with either Book-Matched Veneer or Solid Wood Planks:** These types of panels both offer a solid edge and provide more elegance as the grain and color match horizontally and vertically on the panels, creating a “picture frame” look. We recommend using rim raised panels because of the limited movement, solid banding (rim-raise), stable MDF/Extira® core, and follows premium grade AWI specifications. Rim-raised panels can be completed with either book-matched veneer or 1/8” solid wood planks. The construction on both types of panels is more time and labor intensive, but it produces a more stable and higher quality product.

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[www.upstatedoor.com](http://www.upstatedoor.com)



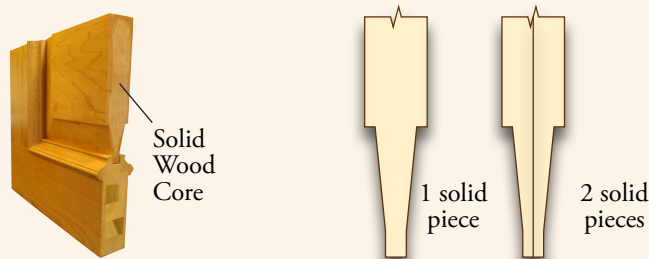
### *Good: Bladder Pressed Panels*



<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
All MDF, so no movement	Non-architectural
Low material costs	Limitations in the profile options
Low labor costs	Paper-backed veneer

Note: Bladder pressed panels are only offered through our Sun Dor Classics line.

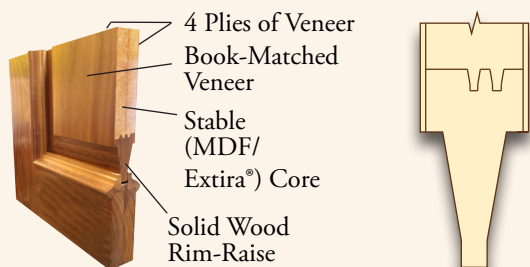
### *Better: Solid Wood Panels*



Note: Anything smaller than 14" is considered economy grade per AWI specifications.

<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Solid wood	Greatest amount of movement, causing cracking, splitting, or blowing the door apart
Grain matches between the stiles and rails	Grain and color does not match between panels
Moderate labor costs	Multiple pieces
	Delamination when glued up for width and thickness
	Cupping

### *Best: Rim-Raised Panels with Book-Matched Veneer*



<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Limited movement	Higher labor costs
Book-matched veneer, horizontal and vertical	
4 plies of veneer	
Solid banding (rim-raised)	
Stable MDF/Extira® core	
Premium AWI specifications	

### *Premium: Rim-Raised Panels with Solid Wood Planks*



<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
Limited movement	Highest labor costs
Solid banding (rim-raised)	Higher variation in color
1/8" solid wood planks (vertically matched)	
Stable MDF/Extira® core	
Premium AWI specifications	
Easier to refinish over time	
Able to be distressed	
Grain matches between the stiles and rails	

**Contact our Door Experts to Learn More!**