

Maintenance Plan

For Your Pressure Treated Projects

COMMON MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

The continuous changes in weather conditions are extremely harsh on your deck or other pressure treated project. Your maintenance plan must be geared to combat the problems caused by water absorption and water loss, mildew growth, and discoloration of the wood due to the sun's ultraviolet light.

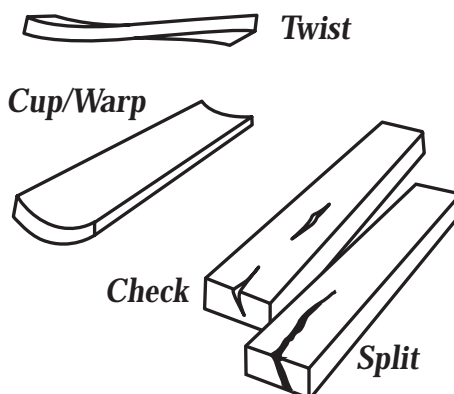
All of the maintenance concerns discussed below are weather related. The degree to which your pressure treated project is affected by them depends on many factors. These factors include general climate conditions (such as normal precipitation, humidity, etc.) and location in your yard (with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc.) It is important to note that the pressure treatment does not increase the likelihood that your deck or outdoor

project will develop these natural defects to any greater degree than the same material left untreated. These weather related defects are beyond the control of the pressure treatment process and therefore, are outside the scope of the Lifetime Limited Warranty.

To effectively combat these maintenance concerns, it will be up to you to follow a preventative maintenance plan.

SHRINKING & SWELLING

Continuous water absorption and water loss in the wood used for your deck or outdoor project will cause its natural defects to surface. The most common are:



A well maintained deck or outdoor project will still experience some of these natural defects. However, the extent can be significantly reduced through a maintenance plan.

MILDEW GROWTH

Whenever wood, including pressure treated, is constantly exposed to moist or humid conditions, it will mildew. This results in an unsightly appearance.

Your preventative maintenance plan will need to include cleaning your deck with a cleaner containing a mildewcide. This will insure that as the effectiveness of the mold inhibitor declines over time, your pressure treated project will remain bright and attractive. Remember, your focus here is on the appearance and not decay, because all of our pressure treated wood has a Lifetime Limited Warranty against fungal decay.

(continued on back)



ULTRAVIOLET PROTECTION

Without any preventative steps taken to block the sun's ultraviolet rays, the surface cells of the wood on your pressure treated project will begin to discolor to the familiar weathered gray. Although some of you may prefer this, others won't. If you want to maintain the greenish tint of pressure treated wood, you will need to not only clean/brighten your deck periodically but also choose a water repellent finish with an ultraviolet stabilizer. The stabilizer will not prevent eventual discoloration, but will slow down the process. Periodic reapplication of a UV stabilizer will help in this effort over an extended period of time.

INITIAL MAINTENANCE

1. Start by cleaning your project with a cleaner/brightener that contains a mildewcide. Because your deck is new, this step is truly preventative.

2. Next, apply a topical sealant for surface protection. Do not use a conventional multi-coat paint system or varnish. The performance is nearly always disappointing, and repainting often

has to be preceded by scraping and sanding. Instead choose either a pigmented or clear outdoor wood sealer. Unlike true paints, these sealers allow moisture vapor to leave the wood slowly after the coating has been applied. For that reason, either can be applied as soon as the surface no longer looks wet. Your choice of sealer should include not only a water repellent but also a UV stabilizer to slow the discoloration process.

FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE

1. Reapply cleaner/brightener as described in initial maintenance, as well as another application of your outdoor wood sealant. The topical water repellent and ultraviolet stabilizer will keep your outdoor project looking fresh.

2. Complete your first year maintenance after 12 months.

**Remember, even consistent maintenance will not prevent the natural defects of wood from surfacing - but your efforts can minimize them.*

FUTURE PERIODIC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

1. Depending on the location of your outdoor

project, with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc., it may be sufficient to clean/brighten and recoat every two years.

2. If you decide to wait two or more years to perform your next cleaning/brightening, you may want to use a power washer. Be sure that the cleaner/brightener you use contains a mildewcide.

3. After every cleaning, reapply an outdoor wood sealer that contains both a water repellent and ultraviolet stabilizer.

Your maintenance efforts will give you a pressure treated project that will look bright and fresh for years to come!

Pressure Treated Project Ideas:

- Decks
- Trash Receptacle Enclosures
- Fencing
- Garden Fencing
- Deck Skirting
- Porch & Patio Covers
- Trellis
- Window Screening
- Picnic Tables
- Gazebos
- Mobile Home Skirting
- Climber/Vine Supports
- Lattice
- Flower Bed Edging
- Pools
- Outdoor Ceiling
- Fence Tops
- Storage Areas

The diagrams and instructions in this brochure are for illustrative purposes only, and are not meant to replace a licensed professional. Any construction or use of the product must be in accordance with all local zoning and/or building codes. The consumer assumes all risks and liability associated with the construction or use of this product. The consumer or contractor should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project, including, but not limited to, wearing the appropriate safety equipment. Universal Forest Products, Inc., makes no warranty, either express or implied, and shall not be liable for any damages, including consequential damages.

www.ufpi.com

© 1997, 2003 Universal Forest Products® Inc.

Do More With Every Project!