

Adding Color To Your Pressure Treated Project

IMMEDIATE MAINTENANCE

Although pressure treated lumber protects against insects, rot, and decay, a little maintenance needs to be performed to give you maximum protection against fading and weathering. This maintenance will help provide years of enjoyment from your new outdoor project.

ADD COLOR AND WATER REPELLENCY WITH A WOOD SEALER

Start by applying a topical sealant to your new project for surface protection. We **do not** recommend the use of a conventional multicoat paint system or varnish. The performance is nearly always disappointing, and repainting often has to be preceded by scraping and sanding. Instead, choose an outdoor wood sealer. Most wood sealers may be applied to pressure treated wood as soon as the surface no longer looks wet. The



sealer offers a degree of water repellency and color to outdoor wood, without forming a thick coating on the surface. It will allow any remaining moisture to leave wood slowly after the coating has been applied. Wood sealers come in three versions: solid stains, semi-transparent, and clear.

Solid Stains

It is recommended that “solid” wood sealers, which have more pigment, be used only on vertical projects such as fences and siding. If used on decking, weather and foot traffic

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IdeaBuilders™

will wear through the pigment unevenly.

Semi-transparent Sealants

This type of wood sealant is suitable for vertical or horizontal surfaces such as deck boards, rails, siding and playground equipment. There are several brands available which come in many colors.

Clear Sealants

This type of sealant has no pigment or color. It will still give some protection from the weather, although wood fading will occur more rapidly than sealants with color. Eventually, the wood will fade to gray, which may or may not be the look you are trying to achieve.

NOTE: We recommend using wood sealers that contain an ultraviolet stabilizer. The stabilizer will not prevent eventual discoloration to a weathered gray appearance, but it will slow down the process.

Whatever sealant you choose, follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE

Apply cleaner/brightener every one to three years, depending on the appearance of the outdoor project, followed by a coat of sealer to rejuvenate the color of the wood.

If you decide to wait more than three years to perform your next cleaning, you may want to use a power washer as your first step in the cleaning process.

RESTORING GRAY, WEATHERED WOOD

To restore gray, weathered wood, use a powerwasher, then clean it with a cleaner/brightener to help bring the wood back to its natural appearance. This prepares the wood for better penetration of a wood sealer. Work the brightener in with a stiff bristle deck brush, followed by a thorough rinsing with water.

After the deck is completely dry, apply a wood sealer. If the sealer you use is colored, be sure to use a comparable color or darker color than your original wood project.

Add color to all your pressure treated projects:

- Decks
- Fencing
- Porch & Patio Covers
- Trellis
- Window Screening
- Picnic Tables
- Gazebos
- Mobile Home Skirting
- Lattice
- Flower Bed Edging
- 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.