

Maintenance and Care of Painted Timber Products

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that annual maintenance is carried out. Maintenance should be carried out every 12 months. In some cases, this may be required more regularly e.g. sea spray.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Wash all exterior surfaces using a low pressure wash system to remove dust, dirt and other contaminants.

- Do not use a high pressure washing system e.g. water blaster.
- If the washing does not remove stubborn areas of mold or dirt, use a soft brush or broom and an appropriate cleaning agent to remove these deposits. Check with the paint manufacturer and read the directions on the product to apply the cleaning agent.

Once the building is clean and the surfaces have been inspected for damage, wear and tear and paint coating degrade then repairs and must be undertaken immediately.

If the paint surface has been damaged, then:

- Remove all damaged paint, sand back if required
- Apply a quality oil based primer on any bare timber
- Once the primer has dried apply 2 top coats of a quality top coat paint

It is a general rule that timber weatherboard homes should be repainted every 10 years if the initial coating product used was of high quality, delivering a good quality coating finish. In some cases, repainting may be required earlier depending on condition and exposure to harsher elements.

Maintenance and Care of Stained Timber Products

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF STAINED TIMBER PRODUCTS

Using and Maintaining a Stain Finish on Exterior Timber Products (Radiata Pine):

As a rule, water or solvent based stains provide less weather protection to timber than high quality paint systems. Nonetheless, stain can be used on exposed timber when the timber has been treated to H3.2,

H4 and H5 standard but extra care must be taken at installation with regular maintenance of the timber being undertaken.

Stain must not be used as a protective coating in exterior applications where the timber is treated to H3.1 (LOSP) or H1.2 (Boron).

As with paint, do not use dark colours as these tend to absorb more heat and accelerate damage to the stain or paint (see section on dark colours overleaf).

Use a reputable brand and follow the manufacturer's instructions including coating the stain on all sides and exposed edges on the first coat. This includes staining the ends of boards, which are particularly susceptible to absorbing moisture. Follow up with at least three further coatings once the product is installed. Generally, the harsher the environment, the more coatings needed.

Generally, there are two types of stain; one that is a film forming best for smooth surfaces and one which is penetrating which is best for rough and bandsawn timber surfaces. Seek expert painting and staining advice on what is best for your situation!

MAINTENANCE INCLUDING RE-COATING

Check the condition of the stain every few months (more if in harsh environments). If in or near salt spray zone, regularly wash the exterior timber with clean water to dilute the salt. Other air pollutants can be harsh on paint/stain systems including vehicle fumes, geothermal and dust/grit. Do not use high pressure systems such as water blasters as they can damage existing coatings and the timber. Edges and corners of timber are more susceptible as less stain protection is often applied (more difficult). Make sure such areas are liberally coated.



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A regular programme of washing the timber and re-coating is best. Re-coat before the stain breaks down (flaking or cracking) as this will expose the raw timber to the weather and the likelihood of absorbing excess moisture.

USE OF NAILS AND FITTINGS WHEN STAINING

Galvanised wood nails and fittings cannot be used with stain for exterior purposes.

NZ Standard 3604 advise that galvanised nails and fittings must not be used on non painted timbers using H3.2, H4 and H5 CCA and ACQ treatment regimes. Stainless steel nails or fittings or equivalent product must be used (refer to the building code, local council requirements and BRANZ for guidance).

LAPLINES

- To avoid laplines which may occur, particularly on wider profiles, pre-paint the top 40mm of Bevelback profiles and the top 30mm of Rusticated profiles in the same colour as the intended topcoat finish.

FINISHING AND PAINTING

- Painting should take place as soon as possible after installation. If boards have been exposed for longer than 4 weeks, some sanding and re-priming may be required.
- Check the moisture content of the boards before painting. Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) should be at 16% or less. Use a correctly calibrated moisture meter to check.
- Once installed, remove all loose material such as dirt from the surface. Spot prime any exposed timber with two coats of water base exterior primer. Spot prime the filled nail holes.
- Once prepared, apply one coat of water-based primer/under coat followed by two full coats of 100% premium acrylic low gloss house paint to the manufacturer's specification, at a rate of 12-14m²/L.
- Once applied, the two topcoats should have a combined thickness of no less than 50 microns.

- The onus is on the painter to ensure that the primed surface remains well adhered to the timber substrate and is a suitable base for the subsequent topcoats. This is particularly important where the boards have been exposed for longer than 4 weeks before top coating.
- Painters should refer to the AS/NZ 2311 guide to painting buildings.

RESIN BLEED

- Resin bleed is a natural by-product of Radiata weatherboards and fascia, which sometimes occurs. The choice of a light top colour and a correctly applied quality paint system will help to minimise this occurrence.
- SPP makes every effort to source non-resinous lumber and identify resin pockets during the manufacturing process, however we do not warranty against this natural feature.

COLOUR CHOICE

- Dark colours absorb heat from the sun and may cause excessive movement, distortion and possibly resin bleed. Light colours reflect the sun's heat. Therefore, only light colours only with a light reflectance value (LRV) of greater than or equal to 45% may be used. Refer paint colour charts for details.

This information is supplied in good faith, and we recommend the installer and painters familiarise themselves with all relevant building and painting codes. Builders using weatherboards should purchase the BRANZ Good Practice Guide for Timber Cladding, a comprehensive detailing and installation guide.

Southern Pine Products will not be liable for any losses incurred resulting from the failure to adhere to good building and painting practices. Although every effort has been made to ensure the information in this data sheet complies with existing building standards and recognised codes of practice, no responsibility is accepted for any errors and omissions nor for any specifications or work based on this information.