

WOLMAN Wood Care Products

TIP SHEET - Exterior Wood Restoration

FACTORS THAT AFFECT YOUR PROJECT

SURFACE PREPARATION:

Make sure that all surfaces are free of dust, dirt and mildew prior to applying a coating. Remove any loose material with stiff brushing, power washing, and / or light sanding.

In order for *WOLMAN* products to work properly, they must penetrate the wood. To test for penetration, perform a **SPLASH TEST**. (See Glossary of Terms on page 2).

Previously coated decks may have residual water repellency even after the color has faded or been stripped away. Perform a **SPLASH TEST** before and after cleaning/stripping until the test shows evidence of water absorption. Even new construction may exhibit temporary repellency after conducting the **SPLASH TEST**. This condition is most likely a result of the presence of an invisible surface barrier such as mill glaze, commonly found on new Cedar or Redwood, or excess wax resulting from the pressure-treating process.

Project preparation should include pre-wetting or covering surrounding vegetation with plastic or cardboard.

All aluminum should be covered when using the liquid concentrate *Deck & Fence Brightener* or *DeckStrip Stain & Finish Remover*.

TEMPERATURE: Apply the coating during early morning or evening hours when the temperature of the wood surface and surroundings are coolest. For best results, the outside temperature should be between 50-90 degrees Fahrenheit.

ATMOSPHERE: Coatings **should not** be applied immediately after rainfall. The surface **must** be free of all standing water. For best results, apply a coating when a 24-48 hour period of precipitation-free weather is expected **before and after** application.

CLEANING & STRIPPING:

DO NOT allow the wind or sun to dry out the cleaning / stripping solution! Re-wet with product to maintain the cleaning / stripping action.

A moderate amount of effort may be necessary to restore weathered wood. Two applications of cleaner / stripper may be necessary to remove multiple coating layers or clean extremely weathered or mildew / algae / tannin-stained surfaces.

While scrubbing cleaning / stripping solution into the wood, apply large amounts of water to the working areas. Rinse thoroughly.

Renting a power washer with 1200-1500 psi range has become a popular option to save time and energy. Trials at Wolman Wood Care Products' laboratory show that the **combination of a power washer or the *WOLMAN WOODWORX® Deck Brush* with *WOLMAN Deck & Fence Brightener* works very well.**

Clean deck posts and spindles, fencing, siding and other vertical surfaces from the bottom up – not the top down.

PRODUCTS

WOLMAN Deck & Fence Brightener - Pressure-Treated Wood

Normally used for pressure-treated wood, but also recommended for use on hardwoods such as Oak, Maple, Poplar etc. When the blue crystals dissolve and disappear, the solution is ready to use. This product will produce a foaming action when ingredients are working.

CAUTION: In order to avoid excessive pressure build-up, **DO NOT** store mixed solution in an airtight container.

WOLMAN Deck & Fence Brightener - All Exterior Wood

WOLMAN Deck & Fence Brightener - Cedar & Redwood

These easy-to-mix liquid concentrates are different formulations that will not show a foaming action. When diluted 4:1 with water, no blue indicators will be present. Both products contain oxalic acid which can remove rust stains, dark tannin bleed and mill glaze from resinous woods like Cedar and Redwood. The formulas also contain thickeners for successful vertical applications.

All *Deck & Fence Brightener* products may be applied with a pump-style sprayer (no aluminum parts), brush, mop or deep nap roller. For best results, rinse well with a generous amount of water and let dry 24 hours before over-coating.

WOLMAN DeckStrip® Stain & Finish Remover

WOLMAN DeckStrip® A&L Acrylic & Latex Finish Remover

DeckStrip is formulated to remove weathered oil-base or latex stains and finishes. *DeckStrip A&L* is formulated to remove hard-to-strip, 100% acrylic and latex coatings. Both are specifically formulated to cling to vertical surfaces and will not etch glass windows. Two applications may be needed for multi-coated surfaces.

- Best results occur when the surface is **pre-wet prior to the application of DeckStrip**. Spray with a garden hose, then sweep off all standing water.
- **DO NOT pre-wet surface when using DeckStrip A&L.**
- Use a mildly acidic product (i.e., vinegar) to neutralize *DeckStrip* if accidentally splashed on skin or surfaces not intended to be stripped. (Painted surfaces should be covered.)
- **No mixing is necessary.** Do not dilute.
- Use a synthetic bristle brush or roller.
- *DeckStrip* may darken Redwood or Cedar. Use *Deck & Fence Brightener (Cedar & Redwood or All Exterior Wood)* to remove tannin stains.
- *DeckStrip A&L* WILL NOT darken Redwood or Cedar.

WOLMAN BackSaver® Deck Sprayer or **WOLMAN DeckHand™/ DeckMate® Portable Sprayers** may be used to apply *DeckStrip*, but be cautious with over-spray. *DeckStrip A&L* is not compatible with certain hose materials, so is best applied with a synthetic bristle brush or roller.

APPLICATION OF PROTECTIVE COATINGS

IMPORTANT! ! For a penetrating coating to work properly and provide the desired protection, it must be absorbed into the wood. See the **SPLASH TEST** directions below for instructions on how to test the wood surface for coating penetration readiness.

Outdoor wood structures vary by wood species and age, lumber grade, degree of weathering, climate exposure and the possible existence of a prior coating. These variables will affect both the absorption rate and color appearance of a new coating when dry. A **sample brush-out** on your particular wood surface is recommended. A test application in a small, inconspicuous area will allow you to preview the results prior to applying the coating across the entire surface. Check this area for **penetration and drying rate** as well as expected color.

Stir the product thoroughly before and frequently during the application. Five gallon pails are stirred most effectively by pouring half of the content into another container. Mix the product remaining in the pail to disperse any pigment which may have settled to the bottom, then recombine all of the product.

For even color appearance, the practice of "**boxing**" together multiple gallons (i.e., pouring several one gallon cans into a single larger container for mixing) safeguards against brush-out variation.

Apply the coating to a few boards at a time, working from one end of the plank to the other. When stopping for the day, finish an entire board to prevent lap marks. When coating siding, stop brushing at logical breaks.

If the product is absorbed quickly, (within 15 minutes), more product (roughly half as much) should be applied. Immediately back brush drips and puddles to maintain an even appearance.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LAP MARKS: Dark areas that appear on wood from uneven application of product. Lap marks can also occur if application is stopped in the middle of a board run, allowed to dry, then over-coated with more product at a later time.

MILL GLAZE: A burnished surface on new resinous woods (i.e., Cedar or Redwood) resulting from the planing process at the lumber mill. This condition can impart a temporary repellency that prevents penetration of coatings. If a **SPLASH TEST** shows little absorption, even this new wood requires cleaning.

SPLASH TEST: A simple test to check for repellency. Sprinkle a few drops of water around the surfaces to be coated. If the water is absorbed rapidly, the surface is ready. If the water beads or is not absorbed, the surface is **NOT** ready. Try a second application of *Deck & Fence Brightener* and a second **SPLASH TEST**. After the second test, if the surface is still not absorbing water, allow it to weather 2-3 weeks, then test again. *An additional SPLASH TEST on a scrap of untreated lumber is sometimes a helpful comparison.*

WET-ON-WET COATING: Apply second coating while first coating is still wet.

WET-ON-DRY COATING: Apply second coating only after the first coat has dried to the touch.

Need more help? Call 1-800-556-7737 or visit www.wolman.com