



BEFORE YOU START

Project Preparation Steps

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Project Preparation is the Key to an Efficient, Profitable Job!

There are a variety of preparation steps that should be undertaken before actually beginning to use wood cleaning and coating products on the job. A few steps should be planned for or accomplished before the actual project date, while others can occur the day you are ready to begin.

Replace Decayed, Weather-Beaten Boards

Replace rotted, extremely weathered or warped boards before you begin to restore the surface. Water repellent sealers, finishes and stains in most cases cannot hide and certainly cannot repair existing wood damage such as cracking, checking, splintering, splitting or warping, let alone decay from insect or fungi infestation.

Conduct a “Trial” Coating Brush-Out

Prior to the project start date, it is always wise to **perform a trial brush-out in several inconspicuous areas to ensure the client approves of the coating color and finished look.** If the coating is a solid, semi-transparent or transparent (“clear”, see through) finish or stain, the color appearance when dry will be impacted by the unique variables of the client’s project and environment. Variables include the wood’s age, species, condition (brand new, weathered and bare or weathered and previously coated) and the method of application used.

Prepare the Job Site

Before you even begin preparing to use the SURFACE PREP or COATING product, it is best to first PREPARE THE JOB SITE. Based on the guidance in the prior chapter for each product type (detailed under “Before You Start” under Usage Guidelines), job site preparation usually entails sweeping off the wood surface to remove loose dirt and debris, cooling down the hot surface with water, covering the surrounding landscaping and masking off adjacent surfaces to the wood project. Landscaping generally includes the flowers, plants, trees, shrubs and grass in near proximity to the project, or any area that may be exposed to overspray. Adjacent surfaces can include windows, shutters, trim, gutters, overhangs, flashing or any other surface that could come in contact with spatter and overspray.

Don’t overlook autos, bicycles or other large objects close to where you are about to work – these objects should be moved well away from the project site.

Masking Technique 1: Plastic

Use standard masking tape and plastic sheeting. One drawback to this method is that it takes more time to accomplish, and the masking tape and plastic could leak, forcing you to spend extra time cleaning up product from unintended surfaces.

Masking Technique 2: Cardboard

An easier method and more protective material to use to block coating spatter is cardboard. Staple large sheets of cardboard over windows and doors. This method is especially time saving when many windows and doors are involved.



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Premix the Coating

Before you begin pouring gallons of pigmented stain into an airless or pump sprayer tank, **make sure to intermix (box) multiple gallons of the same colored product into a separate container.** This step will ensure that a consistent, uniform color is applied across the entire project.

However, if an adequate number of gallons WERE NOT purchased BEFORE the project is begun, intermixing what you have will not solve the uniformity issue. Therefore, BEFORE you begin to coat, it is wise to **double check your math the day of the project to make sure you have enough** coating gallons or pails on hand to cover the total square footage of the project.

In addition to intermixing, if using the product directly out of the container, you'll find that it is necessary (based on individual product label instructions) in most cases to **mix thoroughly before use and stir occasionally during application.**

Also, **always resist the urge to "dilute" a colored finish or stain, or mix it with another coating product.** Why? Because in doing so, you negate the coating product warranty—Wolman will not be able to fulfill the warranty offer to replace the product or refund the dollar value of the product purchased if you ever want to take advantage of the warranty at a later date. **Diluting or mixing with other products inhibits the coating's ability to perform as designed,** and ultimately short-changes your client's project expectations. If you ever have a question regarding this type of issue, always call your Wolman Certified Contractor Manager, or the Wolman Technical Service phone number to discuss your situation.