



STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

Prepare and Restore

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STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION Prepare and Restore

STEP 1: Surface Preparation - Prepare and Restore

Prepare new wood or restore weathered wood before coating.

Preparing or restoring wood is an essential first step before coating for the first time, or re-coating any outdoor deck, fence, siding or other wood installation. New wood structures should be rid of dirt deposits and surface barriers that prevent a coating from penetrating or adhering. Wood pores must be opened to accept a coating and help it provide the best possible long term performance. Weathered wood should be restored to a clean and bright surface, free of old, weathered stains or water sealers, dirt buildup, food stains, mildew or other fungi stains, and silver-gray degradation from UV exposure.

Why do I need to use commercial Surface Preparation products – why can't I just use a pressure washer?

Pre-treating wood with a commercial product specifically designed for wood cleaning makes the job run smoothly and efficiently, and gives the best chance for optimum coating performance and satisfied customers. Wolman wood cleaners are designed to be gentle to handle, safe for the surrounding environment, and most importantly, fast acting and highly effective, so the project gets done quickly.

Applying a Wolman surface prep product before pressure washing also speeds up the surface preparation task and helps you achieve dramatic results. After treating with a Wolman wood cleaner, and with very little water pressure, the aged, degraded surface layer, embedded ground-in dirt and deep-seated mildew will easily rinse away. In contrast, powerwashing alone may actually force dirt and mildew spores under the wood surface, and requires greater water pressure to dislodge dirt and mildew, which can cause unnecessary damage to the wood surface. By treating wood with Wolman surface preparation products first, you end up with a more pleasing, natural-looking, bare wood result and a smoother, sounder surface to coat, both of which will lead to longer lasting coating performance – an outcome you seldom get from using a pressure washer alone.

Why is a SPLASH TEST important to perform BEFORE surface prep?

If wood is “brand new” (installed outdoors and exposed to weather conditions for 90 days or less), the “splash test” (discussed in previous chapter) will determine if there is any surface barrier present which would repel a new coating, such as mill glaze (found on cedar and redwood). For all other weathered wood structures, the splash test helps determine if there is any residual water repellent left behind from old, faded coatings or “clear” sealers that have disappeared. After surface preparation is completed, perform the splash test again to confirm the wood is absorbing water, and therefore ready to receive a penetrating finish.