

# Exterior Wood Staining

## Do's

- \* **Sand All Surfaces** - Proper surface preparation is the key to any successful project. Coatings require a clean, sound surface free of dirt, dust, mildew, mill glaze and loose fibers. Briskly sand all surfaces with 80 grit sandpaper or chemically clean & brighten as recommended by manufacturer.
- \* **Ensure Wood is Dry** - A simple "water based test" should be performed to ensure absorption of coating. Sprinkle a few drops of water on your surface – if the water absorbs quickly in, the surface should be safe to finish.
- \* **Follow Directions** - Take a few moments to read over the supplied manufacturers instructions. Every product has some unique applications which should always be adhered to.

## Don'ts

- \* **Coat Wet Wood** - If moisture is visible, or it has rained, or has been washed recently, the wood is too wet to stain! Wood can be dry to the touch, but still have moisture deep within! Allow at least 48 - hours of dry weather before staining.
- \* **Apply In Direct Sunlight** - Hot surface temperatures force dry products before they can properly penetrate which can result in product failure. If you can't hold your hand on to the surface, it is way too hot! Between 10 and 20 degrees Celsius is a good guideline.
- \* **Over Apply** - Follow manufacturers recommended number of coats. Too little or too much can result in premature coating failure.

## Common Myths of Exterior Wood Stain

- \* **High Quality Wood Stains Do Not Peel - FALSE** Regardless of the product used, if the substrate is not properly prepared a coating can peel. Follow all manufacturers recommendations.
- \* **Applying With A Roller Is Best - FALSE** In order to ensure proper penetration, brushes work best. We carry specialized brushes that can be attached to a broom handle to make application easier.
- \* **New Wood Surfaces Don't Need To Be Prepped - FALSE** You must clean and prepare the surface. Generally 80 grit sandpaper for vertical surfaces, and 120 grit for deck surfaces.

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