



External Coating Recommendations

This document provides a general overview of the range of options that are available and key things to consider when selecting and using a timber coating. Each brand of timber finish will be different, so it is essential that you check the manufacturers recommendations before use.

Timber coating give users more control over the timber appearance and can increase the lifespan of the timber by slowing the movement of moisture in and out of the timber and reducing UV degradation.

Options

The following products are generally suitable for use on external timber:

- Exterior water-based, penetrating timber stains
- Exterior oil-based, penetrating timber stains.
- Exterior penetrating timber oils or water repellents.
- Exterior acrylic paint (Note: light colours are recommended).

Varnishes and gloss enamel paints are not recommended for exposed applications.

Treated Products

These recommendations apply to untreated, H2F treated and H3 treated products.

Due to the nature of the treatment system, it is essential to allow AKD Endura and other H3 treated products (e.g. decking) to air for at least 7 days prior to finishing.

Surface Preparation

Before finishing a timber product, you should:

All Timber

1. Fill and sand any gaps to create a smooth surface.
2. Remove any dust from the surface.
3. Clean any mould with a mild detergent or mould remover.
4. Check the moisture content to ensure it is suitable for the finish. A moisture content of 10-15% is generally recommended.

New Bare Timber

1. Prepare the surface with a suitable timber surface preparation treatment.
2. Apply a primer or pre-stain if recommended by the manufacturer.

Weathered Timber

1. Sand the surface to remove any greying timber.
2. Clean the surface with a suitable timber surface cleaner.
3. Fill and sand any cracks to create a smooth surface.
4. Re-prime or pre-stain if recommended by coating the manufacturer.

Previously Painted Timber

1. Test the soundness of the existing paint layers. Remove loose paint by scraping, sanding or using a paint stripper.
2. Re-prime the surface if recommended by the coating manufacturer.

Previously Oiled or Stained Timber

1. Remove the existing coating by sanding or using a suitable stripper.
2. Test the surface is ready by sprinkling with water. If the water beads on the surface, more preparation is required to ensure the new stain will penetrate into the surface.

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Application

When applying timber coating systems, you should:

1. Read and follow all recommendations provided by the manufacturer of the coating. These can be found on the container or on the manufacturer's website.
2. Ensure the finish is well mixed prior to use.
3. Check the weather. Do not coat timber if it is likely to be exposed to rain before the coating is dry. Excessive heat, cold or humidity can impact the finish quality – check the manufacturer's recommendations.
4. Select a brush, roller or other applicator based on manufacturers recommendations and desired surface finish.
5. Apply 2 – 3 coats as per manufacturer's recommendations. More coats generally provide greater protection for the timber; however, this may impact the finish quality and does not necessarily increase the durability of the finish itself.
6. Ensure all surfaces, including end grain, are covered.
7. Ensure the minimum drying time is followed between coats and before use.
8. Sanding between layers is generally only required for water-based products if grain raising occurs or if recommended by the coating manufacturer

Maintenance

Over time, the colour of timber finishes will fade, and the surface protection will become less effective. As a minimum, timber finishes should be inspected annually to identify if it needs to be reapplied. Penetrating oils should be inspected six monthly.

Finishes should be re-applied as soon as the surface protection begins to degrade in order to maintain the protection of the underlying timber.