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DECK AND FENCE SEALING

Wood decks, balconies and fences will last longer and generally look better if they are treated with a wood sealer at least every 2 years. The wood should be sealed even if it is pressure treated. We recommend “Sikkens” brands however there are several options to choose from depending on your specific application. The description below can be applied to fences or other outdoor wood structures as well.



You will need to choose between a water based or oil based sealant.

Water based options which can be applied to damp wood, are less toxic, dry quickly and provide for easy cleanup.

Oil based options penetrate deeper into the wood, are extremely durable and provide longer lasting protection; these must be applied to perfectly dry lumber, can be more difficult to clean up and require longer drying times.

You will need to choose between clear sealant or colored stain. Colored stain provides better UV protection but shows more wear in high traffic areas.



If the deck is in good condition but dirty you can power wash the deck prior to applying the sealant. This will ensure the sealant penetrates the wood properly.

If the deck is very dirty or mold/mildew have begun to grow you may need to apply a cleaning product prior to power washing.

Wait 2 or 3 days after power washing before applying the sealant.



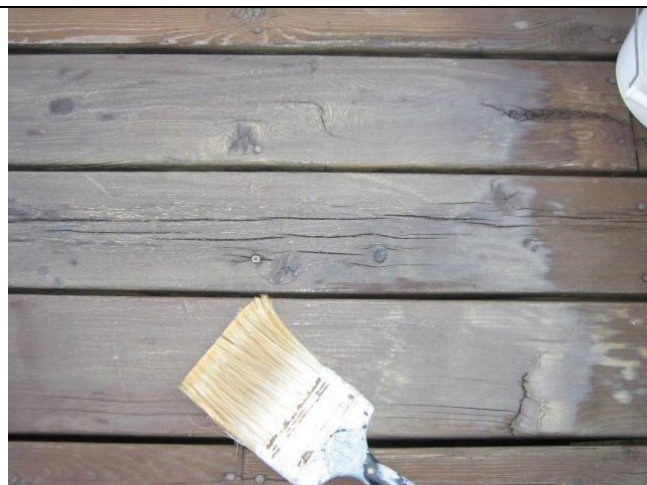
Hold the spray nozzle about 12” from the wood and have the nozzle adjusted to fan out about 6” wide. Hold the wand at an angle, and keep the wand moving.

Using a lower pressure setting is best to minimize the potential for cutting grooves or streaks into the deck wood.

You can see how much dirt and mildew can be removed with a power washer.



This photo shows a cleaned and power washed deck ready for sealing.



Apply a thick coat of sealant with a stain pad applicator or 4” white china brush.



After application with a brush, rub the sealant in with rag to get better penetration and minimize wet spots.



Wet spots, if left to dry, can look like this which leaves a protected deck but unattractive look.



You can see two sections of the deck before (upper) and after (lower) sealing. This sealant was natural color and not intended as a stain, however it will darken the wood a little.



After you finish sealing your deck, take the power washer to the patio below and remove any excess drips or spills.