

Introduction

The primary function of a timber coating is to protect the surface, help maintain an attractive appearance and to provide an easily cleanable surface. Although some timber can be used outdoors without finishing, unfinished timber surfaces change colour, are roughened by UV radiation and surface checking, and erode slowly when exposed to the weather. Achieving a lasting and satisfactory finish on exterior timber depends on appropriate preparation and correct application of the coating. A full understanding of the application method, durability and maintenance requirements is recommended before commencing any coating project.

The correct coating selection and application will enhance and prolong the life of timber. There is a wide range of coating products on the market. As one would expect better coatings cost more as they usually contain higher quality pigments, resins, UV inhibitors and other additives.

It is false economy to apply products of inferior quality or use quality products incorrectly as remedial work is usually far more expensive than initially doing the job properly.

The coating cost is usually a small fraction of the total cost of a quality job, so quality should not be compromised. It is also important that the correct coating quantity is applied evenly over the total job.

The level of exposure to ultra-violet light or sunshine is the major cause of coating deterioration. Coating on inclined, upwards facing surfaces, north and west sides of building projects needs special attention.

The gradual loss of timber knowledge by tradesmen in the construction industry is of concern as its selection and use has a large part to play in the successful coating of timber. Coatings on wider boards will generally not last as long as on narrow boards. Timber grading does not take into account whether the original log was quarter or flat sawn, or the width of the timber or the profile it may be machined into. When selecting and utilising timber, the following factors should be considered; Flat sawn timber has a much higher tendency to distort than quarter-sawn timber. This will lead to a significantly shorter coating life span on flat sawn timber. This problem is more severe on low-density timbers such as Western Red Cedar. The sorting of timber prior to fixing is recommended in order to utilise the quarter-sawn boards on the high sun areas first. Timber species, profile, size and grain orientation should be selected to minimise stress on the subsequent coating system.

All coatings will perform better and generally last longer if kept clean by regular washing. Surfaces should be inspected annually for early signs of problems or maintenance requirements. Maintenance should be carried out while the coating is still intact, has a uniform look and is providing a high degree of water repellency. Maintenance conducted on time will ensure a high quality finish with the minimal of work at an affordable cost.

Quality does not just happen. It takes planning, time, effort and understanding of procedures!!!

Good Coating Practices

- Put a coating plan in place. How is timber going to be stored prior to coating? Where is it to be coated? Who will be doing the preparation? Who will be doing the coating? Allow enough time to do the job well.
- Ensure all timber to be coated has a moisture content of 16% or lower.
- Ensure the timber surface to be coated is cool to the touch. Do not apply in direct sun.
- LOSP treated timber must not be coated until the chemicals used in the treatment process have evaporated from the timber. Fillet stack all LOSP treated timber for approximately 4 – 12 weeks. Duration will vary depending on timber dimensions, longer may be required.
- Tanalised treated timber must be considered to be wet and therefore be fillet stacked for approximately 4 – 12 weeks. Duration will vary depending on timber size. Longer may be required.
- Ensure surface of wood is dry, free of grease, dirt, mould, oil and salt (coastal areas).
- All dressed timber on which a high quality finish is required should be lightly sanded with fine-grade paper to remove machining marks, handprints, glue etc. Always sand along the grain and never across. Remove sanding dust.
- All rough sawn timber should be brushed (using a medium bristled scrubbing brush) to remove loose timber fibres. After brushing turn timber over and bang several times as this will ensure all loose fibres fall off.
- All timber being coated must have a minimum 3mm round on all edges.
- Degrease all timber prior to coating using white spirits.
- Oily resinous timbers require extra preparation, please check prior to coating.
- All faces, edges, rebates and end-grains must be sealed.
- All exposed timber should be coated prior to installation or exposure to the elements.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions at all times if unsure stop and contact the manufacturer.
- Follow manufacturer's temperature guides for application.
- Never apply film-forming products in direct sunlight.
- Thoroughly stir product before each use with flat-ended stirrer ensuring that the bottom of the tin is well scraped. Stir at regular intervals during use.
- Do not thin products unless specified by the manufacturer. Thinning transparent products will result in early break down.
- If linseed oil putty is used it can not be coated over until it has formed a hard skin and oil has been cleaned from the surface this may take several weeks.
- Coating by section is recommended. That is along the length of each piece of timber fully, rather than across various sections simultaneously.
- Do not fillet stack to dry coatings.

Good Coating Practices (continued)

- Primers should be over coated as soon as possible.
- Ensure coats are thoroughly dry before applying further coats.
- Completion of full coating system is strongly recommended as soon as possible, within 8 weeks.
- Only if necessary, cut back lightly with fine-grade paper between coats. Any reduction in film thickness will result in a reduction of the durability of the system.
- Do not mask uncoated timber as this may cause mould and other problems.
- Do not mask coatings until full cure has taken place 7 to 14 days depending on drying conditions.
- Follow all masking tape manufacturer's requirements. Ensure masking tape is removed as soon as possible and inside the manufacturer's specified time limit.
- Use the correct type of paintbrush to match the product being used and the area being coated.
- Maintain a wet edge.
- Do not over brush film forming products as this leads to inadequate film thickness and consequently an early breakdown of the system.
- Soon after initial application, stain type products should be brushed over with an unloaded brush to remove excess stain.
- Keep coating away from rain, dew, condensation and all moisture until dry. Drying will be aided by good air circulation.
- A complete coating system from one manufacture should be used.
- Dispose of all materials safely. Do not dispose of any material down stormwater systems. Contact your local council for correct disposal methods.
- When undertaking any work always follow good trade, health and safety practices.
- Follow all good coating practices.

Maintenance

- Maintenance on your Sikkens system should be carried out while the coating is still intact, has a uniform look and is providing a high degree of water repellency. Conducting your maintenance at this time will ensure a high quality finish with the minimal of work at an affordable cost. We recommend a yearly inspection, as this will ensure that maintenance is carried out on time prior to any major problems arising.

Please Note

- Every care is taken to ensure that the information provided in this data sheet is accurate. Jac Jay Limited is unable to guarantee results as it has no control over the conditions under which products are applied, the substrate or the application. The customer has to determine the suitability of the delivered products or information for its intended purpose.