

HOW TO BUILD THE BEST DECK

COATING TREATED WOOD

You can stain or paint Wolmanized® wood. You can also coat this wood with a water repellent; in fact, we highly recommend it. The best way to tackle these jobs depends on the wood you have, its exposure, and the coating you plan to use. Many light-colored latex paints can be used successfully, following brush-application of an oil-based primer. Primer should not be applied by sprayer, nor should coatings be used if their manufacturer advises against a primer. Always follow the manufacturer's directions and take special care in sealing end grain, holes, and other penetrations with the primer.

How long must you wait before the wood is dry internally?

The time it takes for wood to dry out depends on the climate and the wood's exposure. In summer in the American southwest, deck lumber open to sunshine can dry in a few days. In cool, damp weather or when shaded by an overhanging roof or tree, it will take much longer for wood to dry. We offer an estimate of the time required for the wood's moisture level to reach equilibrium with the atmosphere: as a fairly safe average, we recommend waiting six months before applying paint.

For more information, choose the following scenario that best suits your situation.

Are you using: Typical treated wood? Treated wood with built-in water repellent? Treated wood that is re-dried after treatment?

Typical treated wood

When wood is pressure-treated, it is saturated with a liquid solution of preservative diluted in water. In a typical situation, the wood you buy is still somewhat damp.

PAINT — Do not apply paint until the wood is dry, both on the surface and internally. Otherwise, as the wood dries out, escaping moisture will cause blisters and poor adhesion in the paint. We recommend a six-month waiting period before applying paint. Once the wood is dry, the procedure for painting treated wood is no different from that for painting untreated wood. (We recommend against using paint on deck flooring because frequently used pathways, such as from the steps to the door, will become worn.)

NOTE: END CUT SOLUTION. For hem-fir, Douglas fir, western hemlock, and Canadian woods, all cut ends and bore holes should be coated at the time of construction with a suitable wood preservative, such as Outlast® Q⁸ Log Oil™. This measure is required for validation of the warranty, as is proof of purchase of the preservative.

STAIN — Some stains are heavily pigmented and form a film, just as paint does. The recommendations for their application are the same as those for paint, including our advice against using them for the floor of a deck. Most stains, however, are more transparent and do not block moisture movement. There are other differences, though. Stains may be oil-based or water-based. Some formulations can be used immediately; others perform best when the wood is allowed to dry for a while. Best advice: follow the stain manufacturer's instructions.

WATER REPELLENT — Most water repellent brands say that it is okay to apply a water repellent without delay, which is ideal timing. For other brands, a slight delay is recommended. Again, it is best to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Treated wood with built-in water repellent

To protect against moisture damage, some Wolmanized® Outdoor® wood has water repellent as well as preservative. The water repellent slows down the rate at which the wood absorbs and releases moisture.

PAINT & STAIN — The recommendations are the same as above, but it may take longer for the wood to dry out. Therefore, the delay may be longer. For instance, we recommend waiting 30 days before applying an oil-based product to treated wood, and waiting a year before using a water-based stain.

WATER REPELLENT — With water repellent treated wood, an initial coating of topical water repellent is not necessary. For Wolmanized® wood with water repellent, you don't need a water repellent coating for a year, but apply it every year or two thereafter.

Treated wood that is re-dried after treatment

In some areas you can buy treated wood that is Kiln Dried After Treatment (KDAT) or Air Dried After Treatment (ADAT). In these processes, moisture is removed from the wood before shipment to a lumber dealer. KDAT or ADAT will be marked on each piece of wood on either the end tag or an ink stamp.

PAINT, STAIN, WATER REPELLENT — The moisture content of the wood is already in balance with atmospheric moisture levels, so coating can proceed immediately (unless wood contains built-in water repellent — see above).

WOLMANIZED®
OUTDOOR® WOOD