

Maintenance Guide

Even given the most careful industrial coating with top class products, and depending on the load, there is always the right time for inspection, and care and maintenance coating, to ensure the functionality, protection and appearance of the coated surface.



The maintenance interval for exterior depending on the type of cladding, the material, the design of the façade, the colour choice, the wood finish or treatment used, the local climate, which direction the surface is facing and also on how much wind, rain and sun the cladding gets will affect the maintenance period which could be anything from 2 to 5 years. Different façades will have to deal with different weather conditions, and should therefore be treated individually for the best results.

General Care

Exterior painted or translucent coated wood should be cleaned regularly to keep the surfaces clear and reduce the risk of dirt trapping moisture and speeding up decay. The cleaning frequency for exterior treated wood is determined mainly by the degree of dirt accumulating, microbial growth and moisture, which in turn depends on the geographic location and local conditions (exposure).

Use a neutral, general-purpose cleaner to clean the wood elements. Cleaners containing aggressive substances, solvents or abrasives must not be used as they can damage the surface. Pressure washers must not be used as they may damage the coating.

Annual inspection

Timber cladding exhibits a variety of natural characteristics which vary depending on the exposure environment and may cause minor coating imperfections. At least once a year inspect the coated boards for signs of surface damage or splitting, coating breakdown, or discolouration of the timber surface beneath the coating, which indicates moisture ingress. Inspect and clean out guttering and downpipes. Repair leaks, which can cause localised and excessive wetting of the cladding. Spot repair minor areas of coating damage, shakes or open joints. Since repaired areas may appear more glossy, the entire board or wall section can be coated to maintain colour consistency.

If regular maintenance is delayed or some other damage has occurred, additional steps may be necessary to reinstate the finish to its initial condition.

Preventative rather than reactive maintenance will ensure the cladding is always protected, extend its service life and help keep lifetime maintenance costs down.

Finish maintenance

Opaque and translucent water based paints

Opaque finishes have the longest maintenance intervals. Translucent finishes maintain the natural aesthetic appearance of the timber substrate but allow more UV light to penetrate

to the timber surface. This disrupts the surface, increasing stress on the coating film, which results in earlier coating breakdown and requires more frequent maintenance.

Mechanical damages. Mechanical damages in the material and/or paint coating, for instance cracks and bends caused by major fluctuation of the moisture regime, occurring during operation is a natural phenomenon of a timber façade and is not a production fault. When such damages are detected these should be improved as quickly as possible in order to prevent the damages from spreading further.

Maintenance:

Check the cleaned surfaces for damage. Any damage must be treated as follows:

a) Where minor flaking affects small areas of the topcoat surface but the timber substrate is not exposed:

- sand the damaged area with sandpaper (grain 180–220) to remove all unsound coating and feather out to leave a smooth surface.
- clean down and wash the abraded area to remove dust, and allow to thoroughly dry.
- apply a coat of our opaque or translucent topcoat in the appropriate shade, colour and gloss level to the damaged area. Allow to dry for four hours and then apply a second coat.

b) If there is deep damage where the naked wood is exposed,

- sand the damaged area with sandpaper (grain 180–220) and then apply one coat of water-based wood preservative.
- Then apply one coat of primer – opaque or translucent (to arrive at the same underlying colour as for the rest of the treated wood).
- Finally, finish with two coats of topcoat – again either opaque or translucent

Water based penetrative products

Maintenance is simple when using a water-based penetrative products, no sanding or stripping required.

Clean the surface with a dry brush and if needed with water. Check the wood joints and the end-grain areas. No sanding necessary except the wood got grey and should be natural again. In case of non-bearing substrate remove loose wood-fibers by e.g. brushing-off or sanding completely over the whole area. Then clean the substrate. The surface to be processed must be dust-free, sound and capable of being painted. All maintenance coating work must be performed on the entire area.

Charred layer products

CustomZole's more heavily charred finishes will require less maintenance than the finishes with more natural wood showing through. Our burning process adds to the longevity of the wood and the period of time between reapplication of finish.

However, the charred layer will weather over the years. It is normal for weathering or minor damage to occur in the charred layer during the course of time. This is part of the character of this product, which is known as 'Wabi-Sabi' in Japan, the aesthetics of ageing and imperfection. These spots will eventually turn grey. The charred layer is factory sealed, after years the protection will be washed away and the charred layer will be less resistant. If the natural aging process does not suit us and we want to maintain the charred layer, periodic renewal of the coating will be needed. The renovation period will largely depend on local weather conditions as well as the type of wood that determines the adhesion of

the charred layer. If you want to strengthen the charred layer, follow general care, wait 2-3 days for the wood to dry then using a roller, apply a coat of colorless acrylic paint intended for outdoor use.

Note!

The flaking charred layer can always be completely removed with a brush or pressure washer and leave the wood to patinate naturally or painted in any color.

Temperature and humidity

The moisture level of timber when painting must be below 20%, temperature at least +5°C and relative air humidity below 80%. Avoid painting in direct sunlight, since otherwise drying is too intensive and as a result the paint coating is less durable.

Resin exudation

Resin occurs naturally in timber, in pockets within the wood or associated with knots. Some timber species are naturally more resinous than others, but the presence of resin is normally not detectable when joinery is manufactured. Resin exudation often occurs on southern elevations and on darker coloured joinery where the sun's heat liquifies and mobilises the resin drawing it to the surface. Once dry, resin can be removed with a soft bristle brush and warm soapy water

The information provided above does not claim to be exhaustive, and is to be understood as a possible example. These recommendations for care and maintenance do not constitute contractual legal relationship, and do not form the basis for legal claims.

