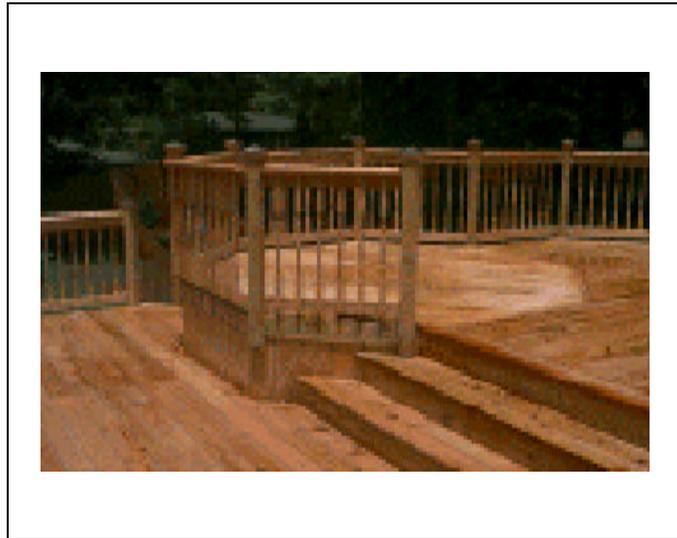


. THE PONTIAC PAINT COMPANY

Wooden Deck Care Guide



There are over 30 million decks in the United States, with different varieties of wood and various types of surface conditions.

Introduction

In the summer approximately 50% of the questions we receive are regarding decks. Little wonder, as there are over 30 million decks in the United States, with different varieties of wood, various types of surface conditions such as mold, mildew, peeling and worn out stains and paints of all types. Add a barrage of media ads and hype touting long life “miracle cures” and we have the perfect equation to create confusion.

Surface Preparation – Rules for Coating Decks

- 1.) “When possible avoid, solid hiding stains that are not specifically manufactured for decks. Deck enamels and floor paints, are monolithic surface sealers that peel from decks here in Michigan. Wood decks expand and contract. Wood wicks moisture. When we apply a dense impermeable coating, moisture simply pushes it off.
- 2.) “Never coat decks when they are wet or damp.” We must allow coatings to soak in and penetrate the wood fibers, anchoring the product into the wood. Remember in high school when we put oil and water into a test tube? The oil floats on the water. The same thing happens on a wet or damp deck; the oil cannot penetrate the wood, creating a potential peeling problem. After washing, or a rainstorm, 48 hours of good drying conditions (low relative humidity, with some wind, and warm temperatures) is generally sufficient drying time. If in doubt; you can test your wood by placing your car mat on the surface overnight. If the area under it is darker in the morning, or if moisture is present on the underside of the mat, it would indicate we need additional drying time.
- 3.) “Always check your stain color prior to application.” Open all the buckets first. Be home to check the color if a painter is doing the job. Insure the product is stirred well, and mix the different buckets together during application. (This is called “boxing” and is always good painting practice.) Because every piece of wood accepts color differently, it’s sound practice to apply a small amount in an inconspicuous area to test for color.

Surface Preparation – General

Horizontal surfaces are completely exposed to the sun’s damaging ultra violet rays. These areas also receive high levels of moisture from the rain and snow. This moisture can sit on the surface for days and even weeks. Decks that are built low to the ground or are skirted cannot be well ventilated to allow moisture to escape from below the deck. This means the boards are constantly subjected to moisture, not only from above, but below the structure as well. Decks are subject to physical damage from foot traffic and scraping furniture. Physical damage to the coating accelerates the damage caused by the elements. These problems will be minimized if the proper preparation and application procedures are followed carefully. Remember, “surface preparation, or the lack of it, will determine the success or failure of your coating system.”

Surface Preparation – New Wood

New wood should be clean and dry. Normally 1-3 weeks of good drying weather is sufficient. New wood is covered with compacted wood fibers called “mill glaze”, which is caused by high-speed planners, at the mill, which results in poor adhesion. Mill glaze may be removed by any of the follow three methods:

- 1.) Washing with Bio Wash “MILL GLAZE AWAY.” –or-
- 2.) Allowing Mother Nature to remove it by letting it weather until it turns gray, followed by washing with Bio-Wash “WOODWASH –or-
- 3.) Sanding well, in the direction of the wood grain, with 80-grit sandpaper. Do not leave any gray spotted areas.

After preparing the deck, don't make the mistake of coating it while damp. Normally it takes two good drying days (low humidity, warm, with some wind.)

Surface Preparation – Old Wood – Uncoated

Wash with Bio-Wash WOODWASH: ensure That all project surfaces are relatively dry. Apply only if wood temperature is above 50 F. Protect adjacent surfaces from contact with WOODWASH: exposure to concentrate may burn foliage, but rinsing residue will not harm plants or roots. Test performance in an inconspicuous area prior to use. Dilute WOODWASH with up to one part tap water (makes two gallons). Use full strength on failed wood stains or heavily grayed wood. Apply with a pump-style garden sprayer or nylon brush. Apply evenly to saturate the surface. On vertical surfaces apply from the bottom to the top. If required agitate lightly-use a stiff brush or floor broom to help remove residue. Work in the direction of the grain to minimize grain raising on the wood surface. Rinse well in the direction of the grain with water; using a garden hose, or a 500-1200 PSI power washer. A power washer will eliminate the need for agitation. The power washer nozzle should be at least one foot from the surface to avoid damage. Note that older or badly weathered wood may still be rough or fibrous after being restored. Some sanding may be required for appearance. Coverage is normally about 150 sq. ft. per gallon of mixed material, depending on the texture and porosity of the wood.

Surface Preparation – Old Decks with Failing Paint or Stains

Old coatings in poor shape should be removed prior to recoating. For complete removal of old coatings either:

- 1.) Sand the surface with 80 grit sandpaper to bare wood. Be sure to remove sanding dust by vacuuming or sweeping –or-

2.) If the failing system is oil or alkyd based, strip with Bio-Wash STRIPLEX. If the failing system is latex then strip with Bio-Wash STRIPLEX-L. If you are not sure of the existing product then use Bio-Wash STRIPLEX-L. Apply the Bio-Wash using a nylon brush, roller, or pump-style garden sprayer. When working on vertical surfaces, apply the product from the bottom to the top. Avoid application in direct sunlight. Do not allow the product to dry. Mist the surface with water. Re-apply if the product dries. Wait approximately 15-25 minutes or until the coating softens or has dissolved. Agitate using a stiff brush or floor broom to remove residue. Rinse with water using a garden hose or power washer. If using a power washer reduce the pressure to 500 to 1200 PSI. The nozzle should be approximately one foot from the surface to avoid damage. Let the surface dry at least two good drying days before coating.

Types of Brands and Products Stocked by Pontiac Paint (stop in the store and see these systems after weathering one year)

CABOTS SEMI TRANSPARENT DECK STAIN: One coat oil based semi transparent stain.

CABOTS SOLID HIDING LATEX DECK STAIN: Two-coat system consisting of one coat of oil based primer, and one finish coat of solid hiding latex.

DEFY: Two-coat water based epoxy semi transparent deck stain system, which uses its own cleaners, strippers, and brighteners.

OLYMPIC MAXIMUM: Tinted Waterproofing Sealer. One coat semi transparent.

OLYMPIC SEMI TRANSPARENT DECK STAIN: One coat semi transparent deck stain.

OLYMPIC SOLID HIDING LATEX DECK STAIN: One coat oil based primer, followed by one coat of solid hiding latex.

PENOFIN: One coat oil based semi transparent stain.

SIKKENS SRD: One coat semi transparent stain for siding, rails, and decks.

SIKKENS RUBBOL: Two-coat solid hiding oil based deck stain.

SIKKENS DEK: Three-coat semi transparent (semi gloss) deck stain.

VALSPAR SEMI TRANSPARENT DECK STAIN: One coat oil based semi transparent deck stain.