



When other timber coatings fail  
professionals turn to Cutek

## FACTSHEET No 4 Colourtones

### Cutek Colourtones Advanced Timber and Engineered Wood Colour System

We make preserving the beautiful, natural look of timber easy.

All **Cutek** oils are sold clear, which allows the wood to age gracefully into a beautiful silver patina on exposure to sunlight. However, if you'd like to retain the natural freshly oiled colour of the timber you're working with you can simply add a colourtone to the clear oil. Choose one of our 10 colourtones which have been specifically developed to closely match many popular wood species.

For best results, select a colourtone that stays close to the natural shade of the timber species being coated.



## Understanding colourtones

It's important to understand that **CUTEK** is a unique penetrating oil system designed to enhance the natural colour and grain of wood. **CUTEK** is sold as a clear oil which can be used to protect the wood from moisture and moisture related movement such as cupping, warping and splitting. Using just the clear oil will protect the wood, providing stability and structural integrity while allowing it to naturally lighten to produce a silver weathered patina over time. The soft natural lightening and silvering of the wood represents a low care option and is becoming an increasingly popular way to leave wood in weather exposed settings.

Wood projects using clear **CUTEK** oil that have silvered can easily be returned back to the wood's original colour using **ProClean** and high pressure washing followed by further applications of **CUTEK** clear oil.

**However, if you desire to maintain the original colour of the wood then you need to purchase a Colourtone suited to your selected wood which will further enhance the natural colour and grain and help to maintain its "natural" colour over a longer period of time.**

## What to expect when using colourtone

Most wood care products on the market leave a build up of material on the surface of the wood. In the short term this provides more colour, but in the long term the finish can be prone to peeling and flaking, which requires time and money to repair.

The **Cutek** system is unique as it will fade over time rather than peel or flake. The initial **Cutek Colourtone** build on new smooth wood projects only offers subtle amounts of pigment that enhance the wood. Timber that's exposed fully to the weather will lighten faster as the wood acclimatises over the first six months. A follow up application after this initial weathering period will provide much greater **Colourtone** build as the wood becomes rougher and more open.

## How to increase colour build on new wood

New wood is milled smooth and often has a mill glaze which will greatly restrict the initial colour build. Better results can be achieved by creating a rougher surface and preparing the wood using **Cutek Proclean** in combination with a high pressure washer. Sanding the new wood to 80 grit will give even better results as it removes mill glaze and creates a much rougher surface which will enable higher colour build. Note...The rougher the surface of the wood, the greater the colour build and durability. Rough sawn or heavy brushed wood profiles will take more oil and colour so much bolder colour contrast can be achieved. The amount of mill glaze if any that is present on any job can vary significantly depending on species density, and machining method used. Note, sanded surfaces should be vacuumed or washed thoroughly to remove all loose wood and dust.

## Selecting Colourtones

Our **Colourtone** system is designed to enhance the wood colour and grain you select. With this in mind, you need to think about your original wood choice and the colour it most represents. Is it light to Golden, Brown, Red or a combination? Here are a few common examples to help you understand.

Black Butt and Silver Top Ash... Light tones so Rustic Gold is a good choice.

Spotted Gum...Light creamy to brown and greys. Rustic Gold and Sela Brown will all look similar on new smooth wood.

Merbau and Red Iron Bark...red to brown tone so Autumn Tone, New Bronzestone, Burnt Red and Chestnut will all look very similar on smooth wood.

Forest Reds and Jarrah...Red tones. Autumn Tone, New Bronzestone and Burnt Red are all close options and will look similar on smooth wood.

### Changing the original colour of any wood

For horizontal walk on surfaces such as decking, we recommend you select a **Colourtone** that is the closest match to the wood you have selected, rather than attempt to change the colour. You can talk to any of our stockists for advice.

For cladding and screening, a much higher build of colour can be achieved which can completely change the original tone of the wood. Even very light wood coloured species can become an almost solid Black, Grey, Red, Brown or Gold if the wood surface is suitably rough and more coats or a higher pigment loading has been added.

In some circumstances you can double your **Colourtone** to achieve bolder effects on rough or brushed wood. We advise that you contact us to discuss this option in more detail as we want to ensure you have the best information possible.

## Applying colourtones

One colourtone size can be used in all pack sizes as follows:

- 1 x 250 ml **Colourtone** pot is required for a 5 litre can of **CUTEK** oil.
- 2 x 250 ml **Colourtone** pots per 10 litre can of **CUTEK** oil.
- 4 x 250 ml **Colourtone** pots per 20 litre can of **CUTEK** oil

Stir and mix the **Colourtone** well before adding into the clear oil. Continue to stir well with a flat stirrer, lifting from the bottom, for about 2 minutes before use and give a quick stir about every 15 minutes during use to ensure even results.

For best results, one coat of clear **CUTEK** oil should be applied to all faces of the wood prior to installing, with a second and third coat of colourtoned **Cuttek** oil applied to the top surface once the first coat is completely dry. Two or three thin coats on finished wood and hardwoods are better than one or two thick coats. **CUTEK** oils will take longer to absorb/penetrate into dense hardwoods so thin coats are best so as to avoid delayed drying of the oil.

## Maintenance

Colourtoned **Cuttek** oil will lighten/fade faster in full weather exposed areas whereas wood in protected areas will retain colour with minimal maintenance over time.

**Cuttek** is designed to gradually fade over time rather than peel, split or crack. Rejuvenation of faded timbers coated with **Cuttek** oils is a simple, fast and cost-effective process.

Clear or colourtoned **CUTEK** oil should be reapplied as frequently as necessary to retain the natural beauty and colour of the wood. Assessment of this is subjective and it is important to realise that colour durability varies widely according to many factors including the age and porosity of the wood, species, situation, exposure to the weather and how rough the wood surface is.

Typically, horizontal exterior smooth surfaces exposed to full weather such as pool decks and handrails will require re-coating more frequently (initially after 6 months, then annually) than vertical rough-sawn cladding (typically every 2-5 years).