

# Guide to Maintaining Timber Coatings

## General Maintenance

Wash down timber as required with detergent and water at low pressure with a soft brush to remove built up dirt, dust and any other environmental pollution that may have adhered to the surface. Water blasting should be avoided. For more stubborn areas a scrub with a proprietary timber cleaner (oxalic acid based) may be necessary prior to low pressure cleaning with water. Leave to dry completely prior to re-application of coating.

A maintenance assessment of the timber should be made annually. Re-coat as required to retain integrity and preferred colour intensity. The re-coat period will vary according to the level of exposure to weather and general climatic conditions, wear and abrasion levels, wood specie and porosity and type of surface finish. Where regular washing down of timber components is necessary for example bars, tables and seating for sanitation and cleanliness reasons, then more frequent maintenance inspections should take place and more regular re-coating should be expected.

Typically, horizontal exterior smooth surfaces exposed to full weather such as decks and handrails will require re-coating more frequently than say vertical bandsawn cladding. As a guide re-coating could be required every 12 months for decking or every 2-3 years for cladding, these periods may be reduced in areas of heavy exposure or extended in well protected areas.

Expect tracking marks to appear where pigmented coatings are applied to decking in areas of heavier traffic.

Disclaimer : the above are general recommendations, always consider and follow manufacturers more specific instructions.