



PAINT JOB PLANNING: COATING DECKS

Wood decks present a particularly demanding surface for painting or staining. The floor area, being horizontal facing up, subjects the coating to:

- high incidence of UV light from sunshine
- stress from standing water, snow, wet leaves, etc.
- wear from foot traffic, furniture, pets, etc.

1. New exterior wood should be stained, treated or painted promptly after installation (however, water left in the wood from factory preservative treatment should be allowed to dry before application of any material, which will take 2 - 6 weeks, depending on dimensions of the wood, and water content)
2. When possible, apply the material to edges, ends, and undersides of pieces
3. For staining or painting, apply only products recommended for deck surfaces; always apply an exterior wood primer before painting
4. For re-do, all loose paint or stain must first be removed. Thoroughly sand all bare wood, and wipe clean. Second choice is power washing -- use plain water, or a deck preparation treatment . (Without proper preparation, stain, paint or primer may not adhere properly.) Remove all mildew. Rinse off all residual cleaner, bleach, dirt and dust.
5. Apply material only when shaded from direct sunshine, and when cold weather and rain are not predicted with the next 24 hours.
6. Stains, water repellent treatments and paints require more frequent re-do on deck surfaces, than on vertical surfaces. Typically:
 - water repellents: every 1-2 years, depending on water beading capability; special treatment not necessary unless wood is graying or showing other signs of deterioration
 - stains: 2-3 years
 - paint: several years