

COMMON MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

Continuous changes in weather conditions are extremely harsh on your deck and other pressure-treated projects. Your maintenance plan must be geared toward preventing problems caused by water absorption and water loss, mildew growth and wood discoloration caused by the sun's ultra-violet light.

The maintenance concerns discussed below are weather-related. The degree to which your pressure-treated project is affected depends on many factors, including general climate conditions (such as normal precipitation, humidity, etc.) and location in your yard (with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc.). It is important to note that pressure treatment does not increase the likelihood that your deck or outdoor project will develop these natural defects to any greater degree than the same material left untreated. These weather-related defects are beyond the control of the pressure treatment process, and therefore are outside the scope of the Lifetime Limited Warranty.

To effectively combat these maintenance concerns, it is up to you to follow a preventive maintenance plan.

SHRINKING AND SWELLING

Continuous water absorption and water loss in your wood deck or outdoor project will cause its natural defects to surface. A well-maintained deck or outdoor project will still experience some of these, however, the extent can be significantly reduced through a maintenance plan. The most common are:

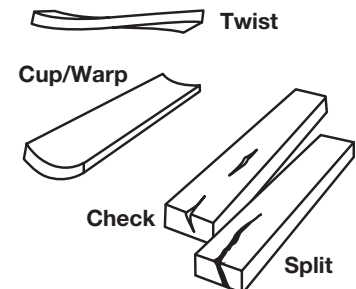
MILDEW GROWTH

Whenever wood, including pressure-treated wood, is constantly exposed to moist or humid conditions, it will mildew, creating an unsightly appearance. Your preventive maintenance plan needs to include cleaning your deck with a cleaner containing a mildewcide. This will ensure that as the effectiveness of the mold inhibitor declines over time, your pressure-treated project will remain bright and attractive. Remember, your focus is on the appearance and not decay, because our pressure-treated wood has a Lifetime Limited Warranty against fungal decay.

ULTRAVIOLET PROTECTION

If preventive steps aren't taken to block the sun's ultraviolet rays, the surface cells of the wood on your pressure-treated project will begin to discolor to the familiar weathered gray. Although some people prefer this, others don't. If you want to maintain the original color of the pressure-treated wood, you will need to not only clean/brighten your deck periodically, but also choose a water-repellent finish with an ultraviolet stabilizer. The stabilizer will not prevent eventual discoloration, but will slow down the process. Periodic reapplication of a UV stabilizer will help in this effort over an extended period of time.

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INITIAL MAINTENANCE

1. Start by cleaning your project with a cleaner/brightener that contains a mildewcide. Because your deck is new, this step is truly preventive. 2. Next apply a water repellent for surface protection. Clear water repellent can be applied immediately to new pressure-treated wood. Your choice of sealer should include not only a water repellent, but also a UV stabilizer to slow the discoloration process. Semitransparent stains with water repellent should be applied to new pressure-treated wood as soon as the wood is surface dry. The dryness can be determined by sprinkling a few drops of water on the surface. If the water is rapidly absorbed by the wood, immediately apply a semi-transparent stain with water repellent. If the water is not readily absorbed by the wood, wait a few days and then test again before applying the stain. We do not recommend the use of a conventional multi-coat paint system or varnish. The performance is nearly always disappointing, and repainting often must be preceded by scraping and sanding.

FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE

1. Reapply cleaner/brightener as described in initial maintenance, as well as another application of your outdoor wood sealant. The topical water repellent and ultraviolet stabilizer will keep your outdoor project looking fresh. 2. Complete your first-year maintenance after 12-months.

Remember, even consistent maintenance will not prevent the natural defects of wood from surfacing, but your efforts can minimize them.

FUTURE PERIODIC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

1. Depending on the location of your outdoor project with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc., it may be sufficient to clean/brighten and recoat every two years. 2. If you decide to wait two or more years to perform your next cleaning/brightening, you may want to use a power washer. Be sure that the cleaner/brightener you use contains a mildewcide. 3. After every cleaning, reapply an outdoor wood sealer that contains both a water repellent and ultraviolet stabilizer.

Your maintenance efforts will give you a pressure-treated project that looks bright and fresh for years to come!

Pressure-Treated Project Ideas:

- Decks
- Trash receptacle enclosures
- Fencing
- Garden fencing
- Deck skirting
- Porch and patio covers
- Trellis
- Window screening
- Picnic tables
- Gazebos
- Mobile home skirting
- Climber/vine supports
- Lattice
- Flower bed edging
- Pools
- Outdoor ceiling
- Fence tops
- Storage areas

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