

## PROJECT CHECKLIST

#### Cabot<sup>®</sup> Australian Timber Oil<sup>®</sup>

Translucent three-oil protection enriches the natural look of wood. For wood in new or excellent condition.



## You're good to go if ...

- ✓ You follow the steps on this checklist.
- ✓ You call for help if problems arise. No question is too small. 1-800-US-STAIN



#### Supplies

- Cabot Australian Timber Oil
- Exterior wood cleaner
- Pump sprayer
- Stir stick
- Natural bristle brush or pad applicator
- Sanding block or pole sander (120-180-grit sandpaper)
- Drop cloth(s) to protect nearby plants
- Safety goggles and other protective gear

#### **Before You Start**



Prep is the least "fun" part of the job, but it's also where the magic happens. Stain over dirt and grime or mold and mildew, and you'll get color you didn't expect and protection that doesn't last. Do yourself a favor and prep!





Cleaner

er Stained

- **Wait for a Dry Spell.** Stain protects by penetrating wood pores which won't happen if they're already full of water. That's why it's important to let wood dry in the open air for 24-48 hours before staining. (If it rains, start the clock again!)
- No Sweat. You'll be happy to know that staining on too hot a day is NOT recommended. Speaking of hot, don't try to stain a hot deck surface, and avoid staining in full (and blazing) noontime sun.
- **Protect Your Plantings.** Cover nearby bushes and flowers and, if they're delicate, hose them down thoroughly before and after cleaning to dilute any stray cleaning solution.
- **Pretest Color** in a hidden spot. Make sure you like it before you begin!
- (i) Stir Now, Stir Later to keep color consistent. For the same reason, mix multiple gallons together before starting.

#### **GET IT RIGHT**

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#### **Prep for Potential**

#### Sand it!

- Even new wood needs cleaning and sanding with 80-100grit sandpaper to remove shiny "mill glaze" and open wood pores for even stain penetration. (You can test the surface with a few drops of water to see if it beads up or absorbs.)
- Previously stained and weathered surfaces need to be sanded first (to bare wood, if coated) and then cleaned.

#### Clean it!

- Use any specialized exterior wood cleaner to remove dirt, grime and stains from mold, mildew and algae. Cleaning wood first makes your whole project better. Color will be truer and more even. Protection will last longer.
- Do use a special wood cleaner. Don't use soap or regular household cleaners; these can leave behind a residue that gets in the way of a great result.

#### Sand it!

- Sand after cleaning, because it raises the wood grain a little ... and sanding will restore a smooth surface.
- Be sure to remove any sanding dust before staining, or stain will show the dust.

# BLUE LID? Where local laws require it, Cabot uses lower-VOC formulas and blue lids. Products work great AND allow for damp wood application, which shortens project time!



#### Stain for Success

#### Stain it!

#### Apply your stain.

- Use a high-quality natural bristle brush (with oil stain), a nylon or polyester brush (with oil-modified stain) or pad applicator (with either formulation).
- Starting at one end of project, heavily coat the cut end of two or three boards at a time, then work your way down the boards to the other end of the project.
- If using a brush, work each new section back into the last section to avoid lap marks.
- Celebrate! Most projects need only one coat.

### Let dry 24-48 hours (depending on temperature and humidity) before you walk on it.

 If you can give it another day or two to cure before replacing the furniture, all the better!

#### Relax!

You've got the sweetest deck in the neighborhood.

