

WOODCARE CHECKLIST



This checklist is designed to help identify and offer corrective action to the most common issues found on wood surfaces. At Cabot we are here to help. If you want to talk about your project and get expert advice call us seven days a week at 1-800-US-STAIN or visit us on the web at cabotstain.com.



MOLD AND MILDEW

Usually mistaken for dirt, mold and mildew can show up as small, black spots or greenish/black, fuzzy spots. Left untreated, they will start to rot the wood surface.

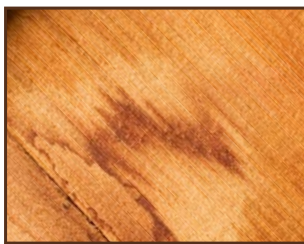
Recommended Action: Thoroughly clean the surface with Problem Solver Wood Cleaner.



DIRT

Trees, foot traffic and even the wind can carry all types of dirt and grime onto the wood surface. Sometimes this looks obvious and other times it's not as easy to detect.

Recommended Action: Thoroughly clean the surface with Problem Solver Wood Cleaner.



TANNIN BLEED

A reddish-brown discoloration, tannin bleed is caused by moisture drawing tannins to the surface.

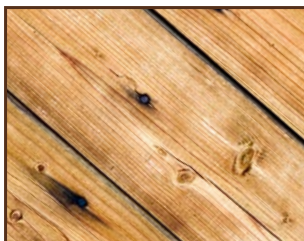
Recommended Action: Thoroughly clean the surface with Problem Solver Wood Brightener.



WEATHERED WOOD

Usually gray or silver on the surface, weathered wood may flake or be very soft if pressed with a fingernail.

Recommended Action: Use Problem Solver Wood Brightener to treat the surface.



RUST

Corroded metal on nail or screw heads, flashing or downspouts can leach through the coating or stain the top, leaving an undesirable appearance.

Recommended Action: Use Problem Solver Wood Brightener to treat the surface.



SEALERS, NEW WOOD, FRESHLY TREATED LUMBER

Apply this simple water test: Wet the surface with a garden hose; if the water beads, treat according to these guidelines:

CLEAR SEALERS left on the surface will inhibit the adhesion of a new coating. Until the sealer wears off, you should avoid staining.
Recommended Action: Test the surface with water every few months. Once water penetrates, you can stain.

MILL GLAZE, which comes from newly sawn wood, closes the grain and prevents stain penetration.

Recommended Action: Lightly sand the surface to reopen the grain, which allows stain to penetrate.

FRESHLY TREATED LUMBER prohibits stain from adhering until the treatment wears down and the lumber dries out.

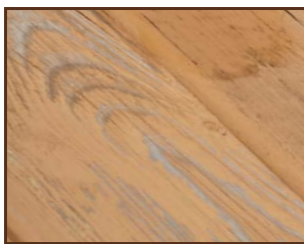
Recommended Action: Test the surface with water every few months. Once water penetrates, you can stain.



CHALKING

Chalking is a fine, powdery dust caused by the breakdown of the previous coat through the aging process. This must be cleaned off to gain sound topcoat adhesion.

Recommended Action: Through cleaning with wood cleaner, re-coat with same or high opacity.



WEAR

Wear usually shows as a worn spot in high-traffic areas and may need extra prep if the wear has gone through the coating.

Recommended Action: Through cleaning with Problem Solver Wood Cleaner, light sanding to feather worn edges re-coat with same or high opacity.

EXISTING COATINGS IN GOOD CONDITION

A good coating is previously coated, with none of the issues mentioned above. This coating may appear worn but not peeling. Usually it has some mildew but no rot; it also will not bead water. Surfaces like these usually only require a good cleaning and a recoat with the same stain type or a higher opacity.

