GET IT RIGHT
PROJECT CHECKLIST

Cabot® Semi-Solid Stain + Sealer

One-coat, penetrating finish is richly pigmented to provide more durable UV and moisture protection. For wood in fair to excellent condition.

Weather
50 °F-90 °F
Fair and Dry

Durability
3-6 Years
on decks
5-10 Years
on fences and siding

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 Semi-Solid Stain + Sealer
- ☐ Cabot Wood Cleaner
- ☐ Cabot Wood Brightener
- ☐ Pump sprayer
- ☐ Stir stick
- ☐ Natural bristle brush, pad applicator or professional sprayer
- ☐ Sanding block or pole sander (80-100-grit sandpaper)
- ☐ Drop cloth(s) to protect nearby plants

Before You Start

Resist Temptation! 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 | Brightener | 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!

Stir Now, Stir Later to keep color consistent. For the same reason, mix multiple gallons together before starting.

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Prep for Potential

☐ Sand it!

- Even new wood needs cleaning and sanding with 80-100-grit 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 Cabot Wood Cleaner to remove dirt, grime, mildew and other contaminants.

- One gallon of Ready-to-Use Wood Cleaner cleans about 200 sq. ft.
- Just apply with pump sprayer to dampened wood, and work into dirtiest spots with a bristle brush. Let cleaner sit on surface 15-20 minutes, then rinse with a hose.
- Some dead gray wood fibers may also rinse off, which is normal (and desirable!).
- Let dry completely (24-48 hours) before staining or brightening (if necessary).

☐ Brighten it!

Use Cabot Wood Brightener to remove unsightly rust stains and tannin bleed.

- One gallon brightens about 200 sq. ft.
- Just apply with pump sprayer to dampened wood, and work into stains with bristle brush. Let sit 15-20 minutes, then rinse with hose.
- Cabot Wood Brightener also returns wood to its lighter original color, which is important if you're using a more translucent stain this time.
- Let dry completely (24-48 hours).

☐ Sand it!

- Sand after cleaning and brightening, because these raise 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 with a natural bristle brush, pad applicator or professional spray equipment starting at one end of project and working your way to the other.

- Work in small sections (1-3 boards).
- No matter how you apply, brush each new section back into the last section (back brushing) to avoid lap marks.
- Celebrate! No need for a second coat.

☐ Relax!

You've got the sweetest deck in the neighborhood.

Questions? 1-800-US-STAIN cabotstain.com

NOTE: Not all products are available at all retailers. Please consider an alternate option from the quiz, or work with your local associate to identify another product if your first choice is unavailable.

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