



How To Stain a Deck: Applying Rainforest, and Mountain XT on Decks & Siding.

The Basics:

1. Lime Clean
2. Sand 35-50 grit.
3. Rainforest Sealer or Mountain XT in desired color (dilute 1 quart per gallon with Pure Citrus or Corn Solvent if the wood is un-weathered or non-porous).

General Considerations When Staining a Deck and Siding.

- Apply to raw, absorbent, dry weathered wood.
- Strip previously coated wood.
- Kill mildew, mold, algae; remove mill glaze and address extractive content
- Brush, Spray or Roll & always Back Brush.
- Do a color and penetration test before starting. Make sure your chosen method of application allows the product to soak fully into the wood you are coating. Add 16 oz per gallon of Pure Citrus or Corn Solvent if it doesn't soak in. This will help it soak in deeper.
- Dry Brush Excess Before Leaving Job, Use a dry brush to catch drips or thick areas.
- For recoats do proper prep and apply a bolstering coat.
- Put Oil Soaked Rags in Water or dry flat. Do not leave piled up.
- Clean up with water and Earth Clean (10% dilution is strong enough to clean oils).

Prep

Lime Clean: This is the best deck cleaner. It covers all the necessary bases to insure more than just a surface wash is done. To get the job done right, we use Lime Clean to prep decks. **To Prep Siding:** Earth Clean works better on siding because it is a clear, strong, easily rinse-able cleaner. Siding is hard to clean with Lime Clean, although if there are severe areas, Lime Clean can come in handy.

When you do the prep: Brush some stain onto a sample area and check it the next morning. It should not be on the surface at all but fully saturated into the wood. If it's not fully absorbed then add 16 oz of Pure Citrus Solvent to help the coating soak in deeper. This precaution will allow you to move fast on the job with no surprises. After the first job this practice usually becomes second nature.

Remove all Microbial Growth: The wood must be clean. Keep surface wet. It takes time for the mildew spores to completely die. If you don't kill them, they will get spread around by the brush and turn black in time. This is vital to a good deck job no matter what product you use. Even new wood usually has some fungi spores in it, especially if it sits at a jobsite. It's often not easily visible. If in doubt, wash it. Many woods will have mold inside the wood, growing up the tree in the sap wood. A strong cleaner is required.

Strip Wood If Needed: Remove previous coatings. Lime Clean will remove most transparent stains and surface patina, as well as mill glaze and some polyurethanes. Test first. The surface must be raw and porous in order to be stained properly.

Stir Coating: Raise the Zinc Oxide and Boric Oxide up from the bottom of the can. Keep dispersed throughout the day. This gives extra long term protection.

Application

Always test for personal sensitivities and preferences in small inconspicuous areas before application to the entire surface.

Decks: Brush rails first. Protect surfaces not immediately being coated such as plants or decking. Finish one rail section at a time on both sides. Return in an hour or two to catch any drips or runs. Brush out knot holes or extra absorbent areas. Employ a dry brush when necessary to thin out thick, less absorbent areas.

After the rails are finished roll and backbrush decking. Use ½" to ¾" roller, Push into wood. Fully saturate wood. Put a brush on or in the end of an extension pole and brush in the corners, the gaps and the flat decking surface. Brush out evenly and uniformly. To avoid lap marks work 3-5 boards from end to end. Start at the far end and work your way out the best exit.

Siding: Protect areas not being coated. Brush into wood or Spray and backbrush. If spraying be sure to apply thick enough to saturate the wood and be backbrushed into the wood without running. Leave the wood fully saturated. This will be very visible and satisfying when clear coating woods like Cedar.

With stains, you'll notice that as the wood takes in the nutrients it will clearly richen up in color. Brush out the stain evenly, with the grain, uniformly. Catch any drips or runs with a dry brush. Employ a dry brush when necessary to thin out thick, less absorbent areas. Brush out knot holes, rough sections or extra absorbent areas.

The Clear 00 System - Top coat: Brush or Spray Mountain XT Clear 00 over Rainforest Sealer. The Rainforest will give a flexible base coat for the durable top coat weather barrier to adhere to. Follow instructions on the back label of Mountain XT Clear 00.

Health Precautions: Read the back label of each product before applying product.

Tips: If Rainforest excess is not wiped off completely or is forgotten surface may become gummy. Simply wipe off excess with Earthpaint Pure Citrus Solvent. Don't wait to see if it dries. It requires cellulose fibers to coalesce into a flexible, high density, penetrating coat; it's not meant to form a film. Mountain XT will dry into a hard film.

Washing: Wash the twice a year with Earth Clean to keep clean and extend life.

Recoating Maintenance

(Bolster the existing stain with an Earthpaint recoat. This is more sustainable than stripping the entire surface and creates a stronger more dense wood surface able to withstand longer and longer terms of exposure to the elements without needing maintenance.)

Recoat Over One coat of Mountain XT Stain:

Wash with Earth Clean. Apply penetrating coat of Mountain XT Tint Base.

Recoat Over The Clear 00 System:

Wash with Earth Clean. Brush on a clear coat of Mountain XT Clear 00. Watch high exposure sides of the building. Recoat as needed before deterioration. Mountain XT can be tinted if needed.

How Wood Fiber Cell Saturation Works:

Surface Density: If this is your first time using an Earthpaint Wood Finish please take a

few minutes to understand the basic principle of Surface Density that our formulas are based on. This means we seek to achieve **fully saturated wood fiber cells** in their driest most absorbent state with high density resin content. This principle sets Earthpaint wood finishes apart from conventional finishes.

When this is done with a rubbing oil or penetrating stain the wood becomes saturated with high resin content. Future maintenance coats will sure up the surface even more and provide a petrification effect. The surface will be so dense with resin that it hardens much more than if your stripped the coating and applied a new coat. This makes future maintenance less frequent and less labor intensive. This is why it's important to make sure the wood fully absorbs the coating. We optimize the coatings for the most common wood but all wood is different. For this reason you should do a test before beginning the job.

Terms of Use:

Instructions are to be used at the users best discretion. These instructions are intended as an aid to finishing with natural materials. The entire scope of finishing cannot be covered here. The techniques described should be practiced before implementing professionally. It is up to the user to ensure that safe practices are followed. Earthpaint Incorporated can in no way be held liable for the implementation of the described techniques. Consequential damages due to application of the products listed herein are in no way the responsibility of Earthpaint Incorporated. It is up to the user to ensure that the methods outlined herein are practiced and understood before application.