

Maintenance of Exterior Wood

Investigation and Preparation

Periodically check exterior wood for signs of deterioration in finish whether it is a transparent finish (stain, semi-body stain, polyurethane, oil) or painted finish. Choose a time when the weather is expected to remain dry for an extended period of time.

Prepare wood surface for transparent finishes on fences, decks and wood siding by re-moving moss, mold and accumulated dirt by washing the wood with water and cleaner specifically listed for such use. Use brushes or pressure sprayers rated for the proper pounds per square inch (PSI) application so that the exterior wood is not damaged during preparation.

Scrape and sand loose paint from opaque finished wood surfaces. Check for lead-based paint in all existing layers of paint before scraping. Never use a heat gun or electric paint remover to remove paint testing positive for lead. Heated lead can give off lead fumes into the air where it may be inhaled. If your paint tests positive for lead, either leave it alone and encapsulate with new non-lead paint or have professionals remove the paint. Let all wood dry thoroughly before applying new finishes. Caulk joints, re-set nails, add screws, etc., where required to properly prepare the exterior wood.

Application

Apply new transparent finishes to those wood surfaces that are to receive stains, semi-bodied stains, and oils. Shake oil and semi-bodied stains are often used on panel fences. Follow all manufacturers recommendations concerning coverage rates, application temperatures and application equipment. Use a primer before applying new coats of paint. Use products that are compatible. The Master Painters Institute (MPI) is the leader in the listing of materials for appropriate product category (website www.paintinfo.com). It represents many different manufacturers and on its website lists appropriate products for various uses, including exterior wood surfaces.

Types and Sheen of Paint

The MPI website indicates many different paints that can be chosen for exterior wood. Exterior paint is commonly a water-based acrylic latex paint. MPI does not use the traditional names such as flat, eggshell and semi-gloss. Instead, MPI uses objective gloss and sheen levels when measured at specific angles. For simplicity, think of MPI gloss level G1 as flat, G2 as velvet, G3 as

eggshell, G4 as satin, G5 as semi-gloss and G6 as gloss. The MPI number will vary based upon surface application, type of paint and gloss level.

Follow the MPI guidelines for the appropriate primer to go with the appropriate paint. MPI Coating Systems for painted exterior wood dimension lumber and siding include the EXT 6.2 systems. An EXT 6.2M system is commonly used for painted siding. EXT 6.2L is a semi-transparent stain system. MPI Coating Systems for Wood Decks and Stairs typically use the EXT 6.5 systems. EXT 6.5D is deck stain over wood preservative, EXT 6.5E is latex porch and floor paint, and EXT 6.5F is deck stain.

Summary

There are endless variations and types of paint and primers available. Good choices usually include systems with a primer and two coats of paint. Any qualified paint store should be able to help you with your selections, but it is usually good to know some basic information before heading down to the paint store.

Contact LCEF to find an Architectural Advisory Committee member near you for additional information.



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