

# FACTORY-APPLIED FINISH MAINTENANCE GUIDE

**Siding with a factory finish requires regular maintenance. Failure to carry out the maintenance outlined in this guide may void warranties.**

- ✘ Do not use harsh cleaning chemicals that could damage the finish. If needed, choose a mild cleaner and make sure to read and follow the instructions for use on wood surfaces.
- ✘ Do not use a pressure-washer. A garden hose and a soft brush (car brush) is all that's needed.

## Yearly Maintenance

All exterior products are prone to accumulation of dirt, debris, mould, and mildew. Siding could also be damaged from vegetation, snowblowers, lawnmowers, etc. As a result, you should plan on conducting yearly preventative maintenance.

## Conduct a Visual Analysis

Thoroughly inspect the finish and check for signs of mould or mildew. Vegetation (shrubs, bushes, trees, etc) can cause a rapid deterioration to the finish. Ensure all vegetation is trimmed and away from the siding surface. We recommend a minimum of 8" of clearance.

## Clean the Surface

The siding should be cleaned of dirt, dust, debris, mould, and/or mildew.

You only need to use a garden hose, do not use a pressure washer.

If the coatings are stubborn, you can use a soft bristle brush to clean the surface (such as a car brush).

A mild cleaner may be used but follow the directions for using on wood finished surfaces.

## Repair Damage (if applicable)

Look for areas that are flaking, cracking, or are bare of colour from weather damage and repair immediately.

Use a wire brush to prep the surface.

Wipe the area clean using Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) and rinse with water to remove TSP residue.

- ★ *Please note: The Factory-Applied Finish Warranty guarantees against peeling and adhesion loss due to normal weathering. Stain erosion and colour fading are natural occurrences as a result of exposure to the wind and sun and are not covered under the warranty.*

## Apply Finish (if applicable)

Once the area has been repaired and sanded as per above, allow the surface to fully dry.

Apply 2 coats of the same finish to damaged areas.

Once the surface has lost enough pigment that the colour is altered, it's time to reapply a maintenance coat. Applying regular maintenance coats will restore the shine of the surface and extend protection against premature aging. Wood must be properly sealed to prevent excessive moisture from penetrating the coating.

## Applying a Maintenance Coat

You should be prepared to re-apply a full maintenance coat periodically. The time between recoats will depend on the finish chosen, exposure to elements, and how often/well yearly maintenance is carried out.

- Always test the colour on a small area to ensure it's a perfect match before beginning.
- Do not dilute the finish and follow any special instructions on the finish can.
- Choose a cloudy day for refinishing, never apply finish in full sun.
- Do not apply coating if there is a chance of rain or there is high humidity (over 70%).
- Do not apply coating if the temperature is (or will be in the next 24 hours) below 10° C or above 30° C.
- Thoroughly stir the finish before application and only use a high-quality nylon or polyester brush.
- Apply each coat generously, focusing on 1 or 2 planks at a time. Apply coating from end to end.
- Make sure that all surfaces are filled in and well coated (i.e. screw holes or nail holes).
- Store the finish indoors between applications in a dry area that is between 10° C or and 30° C.

## Additional Tips:

Keep a piece of the original siding inside (out of the sun). Use this as a reference for the original colour to determine when a full application should be applied.

Maintenance coats can be applied at 25% or 50% of the original colour. We can special order this to be an exact colour match of the original finish.

Please reach out if you have any questions related to the maintenance requirements of your factory-finished siding.