



Pressure-Treated Lumber

General Care & Maintenance

The upkeep of your wood fence and other outdoor structures is important for keeping your pressure-treated lumber in tip-top shape. Know the facts and how you can protect your wood against common or naturally occurring problems.

SHRINKING AND SWELLING

Pressure-treated wood is protected from fungal decay and termites but continuous water absorption and water loss in your pressure-treated wood can cause natural defects like twisting, cupping, warping, checking and/or splitting to occur. This is normal. Application of a sealer or semitransparent stain made for pressure-treated wood is key to reducing this water movement.

MILDEW GROWTH

Whenever wood is frequently exposed to humid conditions, mildew growth will occur. To avoid unpleasant growth, you'll need to clean the wood with a cleaner containing a mildewcide, so your pressure-treated lumber will remain bright and attractive. ***Water from sprinkler systems can aggravate this issue so direct heads to away from the fence line.**

ULTRAVIOLET PROTECTION

If you're looking to maintain the original color of pressure-treated wood longer, you will need to not only clean the surface periodically, but also apply a water-repellent product (sealant or semi-transparent stain) with an ultraviolet stabilizer. This **will not prevent** eventual discoloration-- but should slow the process if the following steps are followed routinely.

PRESSURE-TREATED WOOD MAINTENANCE STEPS

1. ****Normal timeline to apply a protective sealant, in our climate, is 4-6 months after installation. Temperature needs to be above 50 degrees and the surface dry from any type of precipitation for at least 48 hours. (See Step 3) The location of your lumber with regards to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage and moisture retainage will directly affect the timeline on the initial treatment and subsequent treatments in the future.**
2. Start by cleaning your wood with a cleaner/brightener that contains a mildewcide. If the fence has not been protected for a period less than two years, we recommend using a pressure washer (1500-2000 psi, with a fan spray). This will remove dirt, moss, mildew and bring an "old and gray" fence back to life.
***Be sure to clean where the fence meets the ground.**
3. Next, apply a water-repellent sealant or semi-transparent stain for surface protection – either by hand or using a hand held garden sprayer. If the sprayer does not get the stain deep into the pores, back brushing will assist in a uniform and thorough application. **Before Application - Test the area first to ensure it is dry enough**
4. For your pressure-treated lumber to remain in tip-top shape, we suggest maintenance every 2 to 3 years