

What will affect the finish of Decking and Siding

Key factors affecting the longevity of a finish on exterior hardwoods

Many variables will affect the performance of any coating. To most accurately estimate the longevity of your unique project's finish consider the following questions.

1. What type of coating? Different coatings perform differently on different woods!
2. What type of hardwood? Each hardwood species has different characteristics and will perform differently with various coatings.
3. What type of environment? Marine? Desert? Forest? Inland? (The weather and natural climate variances of different regions effect the durability and performance of different sealers)
4. What type of installation? Horizontal, like a deck or railing? Or vertical like fencing, siding or posts? (Horizontal surfaces take a significant beating from the elements including UV rays, rain, snow and traffic)
5. If a residential deck: How much traffic and what kind of traffic activity will the deck receive? Kids? Adults? Pets? Furniture moving (chairs in and out, etc.) Dancing? Partying?
6. If a public walkway, boardwalk or dock: How much traffic and what kind of traffic will the deck receive? Skateboards? Bicycles? Vehicle traffic? For this type of application it is a good idea to apply at least an initial coat of UV inhibitor and then, if desired, allow the deck or deck to weather to a low maintenance silvery grey patina.

7. Is the site shaded or partially shaded? (typically, the more UV ray exposure, the harsher the beating of the sealer)

8. Are there other buildings or barriers that shield the sunlight at different times of the day?

9. How much sunlight does a deck or siding receive and at what time of day and year?

10. In general, the more sunlight that decking or siding is exposed to the faster the coating will fade. Here we are not just talking about the difference between winter UV rays versus summer UV rays, but also the orientation of the exposure.

11. The harshest solar orientation for a deck is a southerly exposure because the sun is directly overhead and the UV rays are mercilessly beating directly down on its exposed surface all day long. The western orientation is typically the second harshest exposure for a deck.