

# Painting Naturally Durable Hardwoods

Naturally durable hardwoods are challenging to paint. If your project requires painting, the latex-based formulas that allow the wood to breathe have been reported to be the most successful.

Limited success has been reported with oil-based galvanizer metal primer followed by high-quality acrylic latex paint.

The wood should be allowed to acclimate and dry before painting. In addition, the surface should be wiped down with a fast-drying solvent such as alcohol or acetone to remove surface oils and surface lapachol powders that may interfere with adhesion. Use an oil-based galvanizer metal primer available in most paint departments, followed by two coats of a high-quality 100% acrylic latex paint.

Wood is an organic material, not manufactured, with variations from board to board. When painting wood, it is incumbent on the architect/engineer/designer to recognize the potential impact of the acclimation process on the appearance of the completed application.

When using any type of paint or stain, we recommend that samples from different boards be made and tested before use in any application. Always consult and follow the manufacturer's recommendations when using proprietary products.

Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions regarding drying time, recoat time, and any specific recommendations for application and maintenance.

It's important to note that painting naturally durable hardwoods can be a departure from their natural beauty and may require ongoing maintenance. Consider the benefits and drawbacks of painting versus leaving the wood's natural appearance before making a decision.

Always follow the specific instructions provided by the paint and primer manufacturers for the best results.

