

COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE CARE AND
 MAINTENANCE OF

TIMBER DECKS AND
 WALKWAYS



THIS DETAILED GUIDE WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO ENSURE THAT YOUR TIMBER DECK IS COATED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY

INCLUDING
 THE RECOMMENDED BEST METHODS FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE DECK WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO THE TIMBER SPECIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOUR DECK IS BUILT

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS PAMPHLET CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU UNDERTAKE COATING OR REFURBISHING A TIMBER DECK

DO'S!

- DO** Select your timber carefully - remember both hardwoods and softwoods can be used provided they are suitable for this purpose. In the case of softwoods, deck timber must be preservative treated, but ensure it is re-dried before use.
- DO** Ensure the timber is clean and dry before coating.
- DO** Stir contents of the sealer tin well before use.
- DO** Apply the sealer with good quality long bristle paint brushes.
- DO** Apply two *neat* coats of exterior sealer all round the timber planks prior to laying the deck – ensure end grain areas are liberally coated to protect against ingress of moisture.
- DO** Apply a further two *neat* coats of sealer after installation, so that a total of four *neat* coats of sealer have been applied to all horizontal surfaces. Three *neat* coats are sufficient on all vertical surfaces.
- DO** Allow sufficient time for each coat to dry before applying the next coat. Actual time will depend on weather conditions and type of sealer used. Oil-based sealer will require longer time than water-based sealer.
- DO** Sand thoroughly with a fairly coarse grit sandpaper any areas which have been previously coated to remove any loose material and to ensure good adhesion of the new coats.
- DO** Clean all dirt and other atmospheric deposits off the surface of your deck at regular intervals to obtain the maximum life out of the deck and sealer.



DON'T'S!

- DON'T** Use rough-sawn timber for decks which are to be coated. Use only smooth planed timber to ensure best results.
- DON'T** Apply exterior sealer to deck timber in damp and rainy weather.
- DON'T** Apply later coats onto earlier coats without ensuring the surface is clean and free from salt deposits if close to the sea.
- DON'T** Allow excessive time between coats. If final coats applied some months after first coats, then sand surface first to ensure good adhesion of the later coats.
- DON'T** Use clear sealers on horizontal areas as these allow UV to attack timber and darken the wood.
- DON'T** Dilute the exterior sealer even when applying to hardwoods – apply neat coats.
- DON'T** Allow any walking on the finished deck before the surface has hardened sufficiently. Depending on weather conditions and type of sealer used, this could take a few days.
- DON'T** Allow water to wet the deck soon after coating when using water-based Armadek sealer. This will produce a “milky” appearance which will disappear if allowed to dry.
- DON'T** Allow deck to become discoloured by weathering before undertaking touch-up recoating. Once deck shows signs of dulling and discolouration it is time to sand lightly and apply two neat coats of the same sealer as originally used.
 If the timber has been allowed to discolour it is necessary to sand sufficiently to return the timber to its natural beauty prior to application of new coats. Remember if all previous coats are removed, it is necessary to re-apply four neat coats for the best result.



RYSTIX TIMBACARE EXTERIOR SEALERS ARE AVAILABLE IN TWO TYPES:

OIL-BASED:

CALLED "RYSTIX TIMBACARE EXTERIOR SEALER" AND AVAILABLE IN SIX TRANSLUCENT SHADES; **CLEAR, NATURAL / LIGHT YELLOW, MAHOGANY, OAK, TEAK & EBONY**. BRUSHES ARE CLEANED IN NORMAL MINERAL TERPENTINE.



WATER-BASED:

CALLED "RYSTIX TIMBACARE EXTERIOR ARMADEK" AND ALSO AVAILABLE IN SIX TRANSLUCENT SHADES: **CLEAR, OREGON, MAHOGANY, BROWN, ROSEWOOD & IMBUIA**. BRUSHES ARE CLEANED IN NORMAL TAP WATER.



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FACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN USING RYSTIX TIMBACARE EXTERIOR SEALERS

ALL RYSTIX CLEAR SEALERS CAN BE TINTED TO WHATEVER COLOUR IS REQUIRED BY USING READILY AVAILABLE QUALITY "UNIVERSAL" TINTS.

OIL-BASED SEALERS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR APPLICATION TO DENSE HARDWOODS.

WATER-BASED SEALERS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR AREAS HAVING HEAVY FOOT TRAFFIC AND FOR DECKS AND WALKWAYS WHICH REQUIRE FREQUENT TOUCH-UP MAINTENANCE e.g. AREAS AT TOURIST CAMPS ETC. WHICH DO NOT HAVE TIME TO ALLOW FOR THE APPLICATION OF SLOWER DRYING SEALERS.

TIMBACARE SEALERS ARE NOT VARNISHES AND WILL NOT PEEL OR FLAKE WHEN EXPOSED TO THE WEATHER.

THEY ALSO CONTAIN SPECIAL APPROVED BIOCIDES TO PROTECT AGAINST SURFACE ATTACK BY INSECTS, DRY-ROT & FUNGUS.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO APPLY SUFFICIENT SEALER TO THE TIMBER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A PROTECTIVE FILM WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY FILTER OUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE UV CONTAINED IN SUNSHINE.



Warranty:

All information is based upon current knowledge and experience and is given in good faith. While all Rystix Timbacare products are manufactured to the highest quality standards, since they may be stored, handled and used under conditions which are beyond our control we cannot accept responsibility for any direct or consequential loss suffered, how so ever this should arise, from the use of our products. Active technical service forms an integral part of our service and customers are encouraged to make use of this in optimising the performance of Rystix Timbacare under their particular conditions.



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