General Deck Staining Tips

NEW DECKS TIPS
- Select dry lumber. If possible use kiln dried lumber with moisture content less than 16%. Paint the deck boards as soon as possible as checking and splitting can occur within days of exposure to warm dry air.
- If staining your deck with 724 Series SharkSkin® solid hide stain, prime all 6 sides of each deck board with 15130 Alkyd Stain Blocking Primer prior to installation to prevent moisture ingress into the underside of the deck. Trimmed boards should be primed while still accessible. A ground-level moisture barrier beneath the deck is also recommended for grade or near grade level decks in damp areas.
- New Cedar decks that will be stained to lighter colours must be primed with a coat of 15130 Alkyd or 05130 Acrylic Stain Blocking Primer to protect against tannin stain bleeding through the topcoat.
- Woods such as Pine and Yellow Cedar that are prone to mill glaze should be treated with SharkSkin® 80319 Mill Glaze Remover (follow label directions) or aggressively sand using 60 grit paper.
- If possible, install the deck boards so that the growth rings are arching up and not down so if cupping occurs, water will drain off the boards as opposed to ponding in the center of the board.
- Pressure treated woods should be allowed to dry for 2 – 4 weeks prior to installation depending on temperature and humidity conditions preferably away from direct sunlight. Pre-prime all 6 sides as per above only if staining with 724 Series SharkSkin® solid hide stain. Priming is not required when using 725 Series SharkSkin® translucent wood stain.

RE-STAINING EXISTING DECKS
- Choose a time when the deck is as dry as possible. Ideal moisture content should be less than 16% as tested by a moisture meter. Re-set popped nails or screws, repair any damaged areas. Fill any cracks or voids with a suitable exterior grade caulking compound.
- Use SharkSkin® 80317 Wood Cleaner and Brightener to thoroughly clean the deck. Follow label instructions. Let dry before re-staining.
- For decks showing more extensive damage that require stripping to bare wood use SharkSkin® 80318 Deck Stripper (follow label directions) to remove old and failing coating and to expose a fresh and sound surface. Repair damage as above. Invert or replace any deck boards that may show excessive damage on the top side. Let dry.
- 724 Series SharkSkin® Solid Hide Stain: Two coats are recommended with not less than 5 hours between coats. Apply by brush, roller or spray at coverage rates between 240 and 400 sq.ft./gal. per coat. Do not thin. Apply in the direction of the deck boards. Do not apply 724 Series SharkSkin® solid hide stain when air or deck temperatures are above 35° C or below 10° C or if the relative humidity is greater than 85% or are expected to exceed these limits during the subsequent 6 hours after application. Do not apply if rain is in the forecast within 24 hours. Avoid application in direct sunlight during warm weather. 724 Series SharkSkin® solid hide stain will dry to light foot traffic within a few hours, however allow 24 hours before replacing deck furniture.
- 725 Series SharkSkin® Translucent Wood Stain:

Previously Stained Surfaces:
All existing stain must be removed to bare wood prior to the application of the 725 Series SharkSkin® Translucent Wood Stain. If using a chemical stripper dark staining may appear. Prior to the application of the stain use SharkSkin® Deck Brightener to ensure no dark stains will be telegraphed through the coating. Allow deck to thoroughly dry prior to the application of the stain.

Pressure Treated Wood:
Porosity should be checked prior to the application of the stain. Pressure treating chemicals may reduce the ability for the stain to penetrate into the wood. Test porosity by dripping fresh water onto the surface. Water must absorb rapidly into the wood indicating a surface that will accept the stain. Should the water bead up, pressure treat again. Spray on the test patch, check porosity and colour as pressure treating will affect the stain colour.

Extractive Bleeding:
New wood containing high levels of tannins should be prepared using SharkSkin® Deck Brightener to limit discoloration or tannin bleed.

Application:
Apply one coat only at recommended coverage. Freshly stained surfaces that remain glossy after 30-60 minutes and areas of low absorption such as knots and tight grain should be wiped of excess 725 Series SharkSkin® Translucent Wood Stain using a clean cloth. Coverage on a smooth surface is approximately 100-250 sq.ft. Less should be expected on rough surfaces. Prior to applying 725 Series SharkSkin® Translucent Wood Stain, perform a small test area to ensure porosity and colour are as desired. Allow 24 hours for stain to penetrate and cure. Dry times will be extended depending on temperature and humidity. Allow 48 hours before exposing the freshly stained surface to light foot traffic. Allow 48 hours before replacing deck furniture or barbecues.
SharkSkin Mill Glaze Remover

**DESCRIPTION:**
SharkSkin® Mill Glaze Remover is a sodium borate based formula designed to open the pores of wood and leave wood in the proper condition for waterborne coatings. SharkSkin® Mill Glaze Remover effectively prepares wood surfaces for coating by opening the wood pores while removing dirt and acid build-up. Use on wood decks, fences, railings, siding, log homes, cedar shakes and gazebos. Ideal for use on new or old wood prior to staining or painting your surface.

**GENERAL DIRECTIONS:**
Dissolve contents of entire bottle into 2.5 gallons of warm water (above 72°F or 81°F). Mix thoroughly then apply to wood surface with mop, sponge, brush, roller or garden sprayer. Wait 5 to 10 minutes then agitate with a brush. Finally rinse well with water. Allow wood to dry-to-touch before applying new coating. Rinse wood in direction of grain using a garden hose or at a 500 to 1200 psi pressure washer.

**What is Mill Glaze?**
Mill Glaze or planer’s glaze is the smooth glossy-like form when the surface of the lumber is exposed to the high speed lumber planers. The high temperature and pressure setting causes the wood to return to its original colour if their tannins have come to the surface after using a caustic/alkaline cleaner.

**Mill Glaze Remover**

**DESCRIPTION:**
SharkSkin® Deck & Siding Stripper is a viscous, concentrated, alkaline cleaner, stripper and degreaser formulated to easily remove solid colour or semi-transparent oil-based stains and water sealers. SharkSkin® Deck & Siding Stripper will also remove damaged and discoloured wood fibre from all exterior wood surfaces, decks, wood siding and log homes. Not recommended for use on metals.

**GENERAL DIRECTIONS:**
Wear chemical resistant gloves, boots, goggles and protective clothing. Pre-wet plants and shrubs. Product may damage metal components of spray equipment. Cover any areas you want to protect. Sweep surface clean. For vertical surfaces, work from bottom to top. Dilute SharkSkin® Deck & Siding Stripper with water at a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio subject to conditions, to remove most stains and sealers from wood. Apply with a pump sprayer and wait 15–30 minutes, or until coating softens or dissolves. Use a stiff bristle brush to remove residue from surface. Rinse using a garden hose or pressure washer at a low pressure setting. For solid finishes product may need to be used without dilution. Apply a uniform coat of product with a stiff bristle nylon scrub brush. Do not use a wire brush. Keep surface wet. Allow solution to stand for 20–30 minutes. If stubborn areas remain, repeat above procedure. Allow wood to dry 48 hours or to have a moisture content of 18% or less to return Cedar and Redwood to their original colour if their tannins have come to the surface after using a caustic/alkaline cleaner.

SharkSkin Wood Cleaner & Brightener

**DESCRIPTION:**
SharkSkin® Wood Cleaner & Brightener is a highly concentrated, oxalic acid based formulation manufactured to quickly clean and brighten wood, plastic/wood composite surfaces, decks, wood fences and siding. Ideal for maintenance cleaning of wooden decks that have sound surface coatings. SharkSkin® Wood Cleaner & Brightener can also be used to return Cedar and Redwood back to their original colour if their tannins have come to the surface after using a caustic/alkaline cleaner.

**USES:**
- Cleans and degreases while it strips away coatings
- Removes damaged and discoloured wood fibres
- Prepares previously stained wood
- Cleans and degreases while it strips away coatings
- Thickened formula clings to vertical surfaces
- Neutralizes tannins brought to surface after contact with high pH cleaners/strippers
- Professional strength, concentrated, fast-acting
- Removes latex paint, solid colour or semi-transparent oil-based wood stains
- Concentrated, pro-strength, removes paint & stain from wood surfaces, fast-acting
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**Using SharkSkin® Wood Cleaner & Brightener**

These instructions are general guidelines for using deck cleaning products. UV rays penetrate wood, which causes graying. Apply a brighterener and cleaner to restore the wood’s natural beauty. Deck cleaners help remove dirt, nail stains, algae and mildew. Always use a cleaner before applying a finish coat of stain.

**Step 1**
Remove all deck furniture and other items from your deck.

**Step 2**
Sweep off loose debris and clean between the cracks of the boards with a putty knife or similar tool that will fit.

**Step 3**
Sand splintered areas with a pole or block sander using 60-grit paper. Repair or replace damaged boards. Make sure that you drive in any popped nails or replace them with deck screws. Use stainless steel screws on cedar decks.

**Step 4**
Wet surrounding plants and shrubs and cover these exposed areas with a plastic drop cloth or light duty poly sheeting.

**Step 5**
Use a stiff brush or pressure brush wash entire surface using a low power setting to remove any loose material.

**Step 6**
Use a paint roller with an extension handle, a garden sprayer or a stiff-bristled push broom to apply cleaner to the entire deck. Apply from bottom up on vertical surfaces. Mist surfaces to maintain wet working area.

**Step 7**
Keep the deck wet with cleaner. Do not allow the cleaner solution to dry on the surface.

**Step 8**
Scrub heavily stained areas with a stiff synthetic or natural broom/brush.

**Step 9**
Allow the cleaner to soak into the wood. Leave on the surface for 20-30 minutes before removing.

**Step 10**
Rinse the deck thoroughly with a garden hose or use a power washer with a low pressure setting. Rinse solution in the direction of the wood grain.

**Step 11**
Wash equipment with warm soapy water. Rinse plastic sheeting with water and remove from plants. Rinse all plants and shrubs to ensure no chemical residue has been left on the plants.

**Step 12**
Allow deck to dry at least two days in dry weather before applying a stain.
General Deck Staining Tips

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A guide to cleaning, stripping and preparing your deck for the application of SharkSkin® Solid Hide and Translucent Deck & Siding Wood Stains.