

# MAINTENANCE OF EXTERIOR TIMBER

## Introduction

All timber, (irrespective of species, durability classification, or whether it is preservative treated or not) will undergo changes when exposed to the sun and rain. It will lose its natural colour and fade to a silver/grey, its surface will become rough, and splits and cracks could develop.

Weathering primarily affects the appearance of timber, however in the long term could affect durability and performance. Varying degrees of protection from weathering may be provided by the application of coatings such as paints, water repellents, water repellent preservatives and pigmented penetrating stains. Note: Preservatives used to increase durability (protection from decay and/or insects) do not permanently prevent timber from weathering.

## Weathering Protection

The application and regular maintenance of coatings will reduce weathering. Proper finishing also helps external timber fulfill its designed function.

- Moisture protection – finishes form a barrier between the weather and the timber, reducing water absorption on wetting, and slowing moisture loss on drying.
- UV light protection – finishes generally should contain a pigment (light colours preferred). The pigment reflects or absorbs the UV light, and shields the timber.

## Tanacoat

Tanacoat has been developed as a maintenance protection system for weather exposed timber structures. This minimises premature degradation of the timber surfaces, whether through UV effects or water absorption.

A short life span, high maintenance and unsightly timber are increasingly accepted as a consequence of using timber. Checking, cracking, delaminating, discoloration, twisting and bowing can be minimized by caring for your timber structure.

After initial construction of timber structures it has been recognized that maintenance is seldom carried out often due to the difficulty and cost of surface finish reapplication.

This need not be the case.

## Product Description

Tanacoat is a high flash solvent based, clear coating that enhances the timber grain and provides protection to the timber against sunlight and moisture. Tanacoat is designed to penetrate the timber and inhibit mould growth. The special UV absorbers retard the surface degradation of the timber from weathering effects.

Tanacoat is suitable for all popular timbers including Spotted Gum, Iron Bark, Blackbutt, Cedar, Meranti, Jarrah, Merbau (Kwila), Balau, Brush Box, Tasmanian Oak, Teak, Tallowwood, Cypress Pine and Oregon. Dense and waxy timbers such as Merbau, Tallowwood and Teak should be allowed to weather for approximately 3 months so as to allow the timber surface to become receptive for the coating to penetrate. This stage occurs when the timber first starts to take on a slight greying effect. Tanacoat is not recommended where the altered colour finish is not desired.

## Exterior Timber

Tanacoat may be applied to either rough sawn or



dressed timber. Apply one coat of Tanacoat by brush or spray well into the timber and allow a minimum of 48 hours to dry. Differences in colour and effect may result from the natural variation in the absorption characteristics of the timber. Excess material should be wiped off within 1-2 hours of application. Generally one coat will suffice. If a second coat is required apply a thin coat of Tanacoat within 24-48 hours of the first application. Ensure all end grain is well coated to minimize water penetration.

Dressed timber may be coated using a lambswool applicator soaked in Tanacoat with the excess material wiped off after 1-2 hours. Where external timber has completely greyed in colour then the timber should be rejuvenated either by sanding or using a propriety timber cleaner. All moss, algae, lichen etc must be completely removed using chlorine bleach or a propriety mould treatment. Use according to package directions.

*Pioneer post with sealing coat of Tanacoat golden oak*



*OSA supplied product  
Designed by SPLAT*

Obviously the oil cannot penetrate freshly processed, unseasoned timber as the outer layers are full of moisture. Tanacoat can be applied as a protective coat at this stage - refer note on waxy species - but a second coat will have to be applied.