



## Choosing a Finish for Perennial Wood™

Wood industry experts, like the Forest Products Laboratory, recommend that all exterior-exposed wood surfaces be coated to help reduce the damaging effects of the weather. A high quality exterior coating provides wood some protection against UV light degradation and typically makes cleaning dirt and mold stains easier. Perennial Wood, real wood modified throughout to resist rot, decay, and movement, should also be given the surface protection offered by high quality paints and stains. Perennial Wood accepts most types of exterior stains and paints and can be refinished as desired.

To achieve the wood look you want – and the desired maintenance level – consider the following:

### PORCH FLOORING PAINTS

For best results, choose a high quality exterior porch and floor paint (typically a **solventborne polyurethane, an all-acrylic latex, or waterborne alkyd**) and a fully compatible primer and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Make sure the porch is dry and free of dirt and mold at the time of installation. Typical applications require three coats of a high quality porch and floor paint in addition to the primer. For cleaning guidelines, see the Perennial Wood Cleaning Recommendations at [PerennialWood.com](http://PerennialWood.com).

### SOLID-COLOR STAINS

Industry studies show two coats of a **high quality, exterior, all-acrylic, latex, solid-color stain** are generally superior on wood applications compared to oil-based stains. The durability of all-acrylic, latex, solid-color stains translates to a longer coating life and less maintenance compared to other stains.

### SEMITRANSSPARENT STAINS

While typically less durable than solid-color stains, semitransparent stains provide some of the benefits but allow more of the natural wood grain appearance to show. It is advisable to apply two coats of an **all-acrylic, latex, semitransparent stain**.

### CLEAR COATINGS

These coatings maintain a beautiful appearance on INTERIOR wood applications for many years. Outdoors, these coatings have limited durability on wood partially due to the damage by UV light. Exterior tests show that clear coats, like **clear polyurethanes**, provide good surface appearance and some protection but often result in flaking at the end of service life. Coatings like these may tend to be short-lived and may require high maintenance.



### **PENETRATING OILS & SEALERS**

While these products allow the wood grain to show through, they typically erode and thus require the most frequent maintenance. However, these typically can be easily reapplied.

So when choosing your outdoor wood finish, keep in mind the trade-offs between wood's natural appearance and the frequency and difficulty of maintenance.

The advice above is based on performance of broad categories of coating systems. Actual results may vary based on factors including the specific products used, the manner in which applied, and the exposure conditions.