

Timber Care

Pressure treated yellow pine has a lifetime limited warranty against fungi and termites. No maintenance is needed to renew resistance to these organisms. However, protection is required to help maintain the wood's appearance in the extremes of outdoor weather. Sun and rain cycles cause stresses in timber and can result in some swelling and shrinking and cause small cracks to appear in the wood. Please note that these cracks are not dangerous, as they are surface cracks and very rarely penetrate deeply into the wood.

To help protect your timber against moisture damage please follow the advice below. If maintained correctly, you will have a product that will look beautiful and remain structurally sound for many years. Please note that some hardwoods may require specialized care. The following guide is more commonly used for softwoods.

1. Seal

Apply an effective brand of water repellent sealer soon after you receive your product. Some stains are heavily pigmented and form a film, just as paint does. Our recommendations for these are the same as those for paint, and that is to **not** use them as they are likely to trap moisture inside the timber and impede breathability. Most stains, however, are more transparent and do not block moisture movement. There are other differences, though. Stains may be oil-based or water-based. Some formulations can be used immediately; others perform best when the wood is allowed to dry for a while. Best advice is to follow the stain manufacturer's instructions. There are generally a number of options available at your local DIY shop. Keep in mind that lower quality options will likely need be applied more often and feel less pleasant to the touch. It is recommended that a water repellent be applied every year or two.

2. Refurbish

- Cleaning

To revitalize a dingy appearance caused by dirt and mildew, use deck brightener to clean the outdoor wood. This will restore the timber colour and freshen it in preparation for applying a water-repellent sealer.

To clean, apply the brightener according to manufacturer's instructions and scrub with a stiff bristle brush. Wash the wood using water from a bucket or hosepipe. You may also use a power washer but be careful to use a lower pressure setting and keep nozzle a safe distance from timber surface so as not to "raise" the woodgrain.

After cleaning, allow wood to dry completely.

- Sanding

Once the timber is completely dry, sand down any rough patches, splinters or edges as needed. 80-100 grit sandpaper is recommended.

- Inspect structural pieces

During the sanding process, be sure to check all pieces for structural soundness and that all fasteners are in good condition. Replace any parts or fasteners that are damaged, cracked or broken. Any fixings or fasteners can likely be sourced at your local DIY shop but you may need to contact your manufacturer if you need any timber pieces that require a specific custom cut.

- Refinish

Now that your timber is clean, smooth, and structurally sound, you're ready to apply the sealer. Using a brush or roller apply an even coat of sealer following manufacturers advice. You may need to apply multiple coats for a proper seal.

Now you can enjoy the feeling of satisfaction for the work you've just done as well as the natural beauty the revitalized timber adds to your garden!