



# WOOD PAINT PROJECT

## PROJECT ADVICE: *FOR TIMBER DECKING*

Standard rules apply when it comes to preparation and painting of decking boards but making sure your decking boards are dry prior to painting is essential.

Decking boards retain and hold a lot of moisture as the boards tend to be fairly thick, and moisture gets trapped underneath them so even though the top looks dry, the moisture content can still be too high. If you paint wood paint onto timber that is damp (should have a moisture content of <20%) then the paint won't fix and bond properly, leading to peeling and lifting, or premature failing of the coating.

Painting at the end of a good spring or in the summer to late autumn is ideal as there should have been enough hot and dry spells to dry out the decking timbers all the way through. Investing in a protimeter to measure levels of humidity in surfaces can save you a lot of time and effort in the long run. You can pick them up pretty cheaply and they'll give you an accurate picture of what's going on under the surface.

1. Select your colour or colours thinking about a colour palette that will fit with your garden design, planting, and bring a smile to your face. You can use sample pots to make sure you're getting exactly the colour you want in situ as different timber surfaces and lighting can affect the shade you see. Thorndown use exterior grade colour pigments meaning that the colour you chose is the colour you'll see for years and years. Thorndown satin Wood Paint is available in a beautiful and diverse colour palette and transparent wood stain colours, along with thousands of RAL Classic and Design, NCS, BS & Pantone C colours.
2. Sand off any rough patches or loose old coatings that will show or affect the finish. If you paint directly onto old flaky loose paint then the old paint will in time just flake and fall off taking the new paint coating with it.
3. Make repairs to any loose sections and tighten screws that may have come loose.
4. Make sure the surface is clean. Wash off any dirt with soapy water or use a pressure-washer to blast off persistent dirt or algae. Washing with a light bleach/water solution will help to kill off algae.
5. Before painting make sure the timber is dry otherwise coatings won't fix properly to the timber affecting performance and longevity. Moisture content needs to be <20% and can be checked using a protimeter.
6. Apply a knotting agent or stain-blocking primer to prevent possible staining of the paint coating from tannins and resin bleeds – or don't worry about it and let nature take its course.
7. Check the weather to make sure rain isn't forecast for at least 24 hours to allow plenty of time for the paint to dry and fix/bond.
8. Get your Thorndown Wood Paint, a paint stirrer, good quality synthetic brush, roller or sprayer. Apply a good coat making sure you get the paint well into all of the nooks and crannies, in between the grooves on the decking board surface, and in between the boards so you get the sides too.
9. Leave to dry. Thorndown Wood Paint will be touch dry in about 30 minutes to an hour in decent dry warm weather and ready to paint on a second coat if you like. A second coat will increase the intensity and solidity of the colour and will increase the durability of the coating so can help it last longer.
10. Avoid walking on it for 24 hours after painting as although the coating will be touch dry it will still be curing (turning nice and solid) so you don't want to mark it while it's still soft.
11. Normally a maintenance coat is required every 1-2 years as horizontal surfaces degrade a lot quicker than vertical due to beating rain, sitting water and ice which can all take it's toll, with foot traffic also wearing the coating down.



CLADDING



DECKING



SHEDS



FENCES



DOORS



FLOORS



WINDOWS



FURNITURE



REPELS WATER



CLEANS UP WITH WATER



MIXES WITH OTHER COLOURS



DILUTES FOR A STAIN EFFECT



NICE CANS

For your convenience, our tins have been designed with a wider top for easy painting, and more air space above the paint level for easy mixing.