



The best solution for wood protection

FACTSHEET No 4 – Cleaning and Maintenance

IMPORTANT: CUTEK® wood preservatives are designed to gradually fade over time rather than, peel off, split or crack as is the case with many conventional film forming coatings. For this reason, the rejuvenation and maintenance of CUTEK® coated surfaces is a simple, fast, and cost effective process.

How often should I maintain my deck or cladding/siding?

CUTEK® wood preservatives must be reapplied as frequently as necessary to retain the natural beauty and colour of the timber or bamboo.

Recoat time varies widely according to many factors including the age and porosity of the timber, species, situation, and exposure to the weather so we are unable to offer any specific performance warranties. Typically, horizontal exterior smooth surfaces exposed to full weather such as pool decks and handrails may require recoating every 6 months to 2 years, while vertical rough-sawn cladding may require maintenance less frequently. Dense hardwoods and bamboo may need more frequent recoating in the first year, every 3-4 months, to enable adequate buildup of the CUTEK® product in the substrate.

Surfaces that have been previously coated with CUTEK® products that have faded, or started to "grey off" in the sun are easily and quickly restored to their original appearance without the need for any sanding and stripping by treatment with CUTEKQuickclean® or CUTEKProclean®, and the application of one or two further coats of a CUTEK® wood preservative.

How do I clean my deck?

If the timber is only dirty and faded, CUTEKQuickclean® may be all that you need to prepare the surface for another coat of CUTEK® wood preservative. CUTEKQuickclean® is designed as a cost effective, biodegradable cleaner for the restoration of uncoated, dirty and weathered timber. CUTEKQuickclean® is less powerful than CUTEKProclean®, however it is non hazardous, and will not damage substrates or vegetation adjacent to the timber surface being restored, eliminating the need for containment or masking. *See Page 2 of the factsheet for the CUTEKQuickclean® application procedure.*

If your timber is quite weathered and stained, better results will be obtained by using CUTEKProclean®.

Unlike bleach and detergents, CUTEKProclean® is not considered a strong defoliant, however, the use of absorbent drop cloths to protect delicate and/or adjacent vegetation is recommended.

Because of the wide variation in discoloration and timber species that are encountered, a test area should always be cleaned prior to commencement of the project to determine how much time the restoration procedure will require, and how much CUTEKProclean® will be required. This enables an accurate application procedure to be determined and cost estimated. It is important for the user to determine the suitability of the product for its intended application.

It is preferable to use CUTEKProclean® as supplied and it must always be stirred well before use. Sometimes however, the use of hot water rinsing combined with an easy to clean surface, means that CUTEKProclean® can be diluted with water. If a choice to dilute the product is made, always test to determine if the dilution being used is effective in cleaning. If the timber is proving easy to clean, it might be more cost effective to use CUTEKQuickclean® instead of CUTEKProclean® on a large project.

See page 3 of the fact sheet for the CUTEKProclean® application procedure.



Timber prior to cleaning



Same piece of timber after cleaning with CUTЕКQuickclean®



Same piece of timber after a further application of CUTЕКProclean®

CUTЕКQuickclean® application procedure

Because of the wide variation in discoloration and timber species that are encountered, a test area should always be cleaned prior to commencement of the project to determine how much time the restoration procedure will require, and how much **CUTЕКQuickclean®** will be required. This enables an accurate application procedure to be determined and cost estimated. It is important for the user to determine the suitability of the product for its intended application.

Preparation

CUTЕКQuickclean® must be prepared by mixing one packet of the powdered concentrate with 10L of clean water and stirring well until dissolved. If the made up solution is to be applied through a water blaster venturi system then ensure that the solution concentration is increased to compensate for water dilution through the machine.

Application

Apply **CUTЕКQuickclean®** liberally to the timber substrate with brush, roller, garden sprayer, or water blaster venturi system. Let the **CUTЕКQuickclean®** solution dwell on the surface for 10–15 minutes, or such time as deemed to be necessary by the test procedure. It is important not to let the substrate dry out.

Removal

Once **CUTЕКQuickclean®** has cleaned the timber, it must be power water rinsed (hot water works best) off. For best results wash off with high-pressure water at 1000–1300 p.s.i. pressure. Clean from the lowest point and work upwards methodically. ALWAYS clean off with a water jet that produces a fan that is 40–50mm wide about 100mm out from jet. Adopt a continuous “mowing action” working with power water fan-jet 100mm from the face of the substrate. DO NOT use “turbojets” on timber. CAUTION must be used when cleaning soft timber to reduce the pressure and avoid scouring of sapwood.

Additionally, certain types of wood surfaces may leave a raised grain effect after cleaning is completed. Sanding or poly pad scrubbing may be required to smooth out this condition.

Cleanup and Precautions

CUTЕКQuickclean® is slippery when applied to surface so use caution when walking on horizontal surfaces. DO NOT walk on surfaces coated with **CUTЕКQuickclean®**. Water flush all equipment, vegetation, paths, concrete, asphalt, and other adjacent surfaces immediately upon contact. Leave job site free of any trace amounts of **CUTЕКQuickclean®**. Always remember that **CUTЕКQuickclean®** is a chemical, and refer to the health and safety considerations listed in the MSDS sheet prior to commencing any project. Never leave behind any containers or equipment, and appropriately label any containers of residue for disposal.

CUTEKProclean® application procedure

Application

After testing a patch of timber and determining the required dilution, if any, apply **CUTEKProclean®** liberally to a pre-wetted timber substrate with brush, roller, or garden sprayer. Let **CUTEKProclean®** do most of the work by letting it dwell on the surface for 10 minutes–8 hours, or such time as deemed to be necessary by the test procedure. It may be necessary to scrub stubborn stains moderately with a stiff fibre brush.

Removal

Once **CUTEKProclean®** has cleaned the timber, it must be power water rinsed (hot water works best) off. For best results wash off with high-pressure water at 1000–1300 p.s.i. pressure. Clean from the lowest point and work upwards methodically. ALWAYS clean off with a water jet that produces a “putty knife” shaped fan that is 40–50mm wide about 100mm out from jet. Adopt a continuous “mowing action” working with power water fan-jet 100mm from the face of the substrate. DO NOT use “turbojets” on timber. CAUTION must be used when cleaning soft timber to reduce the pressure and avoid scouring of sapwood. The longer that **CUTEKProclean®** is left on the substrate, the greater the rinse time required.

Additionally, certain types of wood surfaces may leave a raised grain effect after stripping is completed. Sanding or poly pad scrubbing may be required to smooth out this condition.

If **CUTEKProclean®** is being used to remove mill glaze (a smooth glossy surface found on smooth newly sawn timber which is impervious to most coatings) use the same procedure as above.

Cleanup and Precautions

CUTEKProclean® is slippery when applied to a surface so use caution when walking on horizontal surfaces. DO NOT walk on surfaces coated with **CUTEKProclean®**. Water flush all equipment, vegetation, paths, concrete, asphalt, and other adjacent surfaces immediately upon contact. Leave job site free of any trace amounts of **CUTEKProclean®**. Always remember that **CUTEKProclean®** is a hazardous chemical, and refer to the health and safety considerations listed in the MSDS sheet prior to commencing any project. Fully protect adjacent surfaces including vegetation and be aware of the potential for wind drift into areas with cars or pedestrian traffic when rinsing or applying. Never leave behind any containers or equipment, and appropriately label any containers of residue for disposal.

Recoating with a CUTEK® wood preservative

Following the restoration of the timber with **CUTEKProclean®**, it is important to complete the restoration process by coating the timber with an appropriate **CUTEK®** wood preservative, following the procedure detailed in the Application Factsheet. Failure to treat the wood after restoration will result in the weathering process occurring more rapidly than it took prior to restoration.