

## Taking Care of your Planter and Window Boxes

Ongoing and regular maintenance is essential for the long term performance of timber products.

The coating system of your product must be maintained to ensure the longevity of the product.

This generally means a wash each year and a visual inspection to spot any areas that may require a paint touch up. The product will require a repaint every 5-6 years.

Do not wait for the coating to breakdown or until the maximum durability guide periods, 5 years have been exceeded before re-coating or completing any maintenance touch up work that needs attention.

### Care timetable – Each Year

1. Clean down
2. Inspect
3. Take action

The following notes give detailed guidance, if in doubt, contact us by email.

### Cleaning Requirements – Surface Organic Growth:

Areas affected by algae and mould growth should be treated with a solution of one part sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) to two parts water.

Allow the solution a minimum of 20 mins to work before washing off with clean water and a stiff nylon bristle brush (not metallic). Allow to dry. This should be done on a regular basis and frequency of this action will be determined by the speed of build-up of the algae or mould.

Wash with warm water and a liquid detergent solution to remove any contaminants, frequently changing the water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all residues. Allow to dry.

### Where Resin (sap) has exuded though the coating:

Because this is a natural occurrence in timber products, it does not constitute a fault and the best remedial treatment is to allow the resin to weather until it dries and oxidises, forming a white crystalline powder. This can be removed with a stiff nylon brush and any remaining residue washed off. Water based coatings have good moisture vapour permeability and often allow the passage of resin to the surface without damage to the coating. If the finish is not damaged, by over vigorous scrubbing during crystal removal, re-coating is often unnecessary.

Although unsightly, it is better not to remove fresh sticky resin. In practice, this can be very difficult; and the presence of sticky resin indicates that the exudation is still continuing.

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The remedial work for resin exudation is best left until the first maintenance period, by which time the resin has normally fully crystallised.

After removal as described above, the overall application of one maintenance coat of finish restores the general appearance of the timber and maintains its protection.

## PAINT COATING SYSTEM

Remedial and maintenance Instructions:

Check for damaged areas which reveal bare timber and then follow the remedial instructions:

Surfaces affected by light damage/wear and tear and where the damage has not penetrated to the timber substrate beneath:

Remove all signs of surface damage by manually abrading with a fine grade abrasive paper. Ensure all abrading is undertaken in the direction of the timber grain, avoiding inhalation of the dust.

Clean down the abraded area to remove the dust – a vacuum cleaner is most effective way.

Using a good quality long haired synthetic brush, designed for use with acrylic paints ( Farrow & Ball) , apply a coat of the appropriate shade, colour and gloss level. Allow to dry for 4 hours between coats and then apply subsequent coats until the desired finish is achieved.

If the damage is widespread, it is recommended that the whole planter is lightly abraded and repaired as above.