

STAIN TYPES

Deep Penetrating Stains

- Provides deep penetrating protection penetrating as much as ½ inch or more (3-4 cells deep).
- Natural, non-glossy appearance.
- Provides good water repellency and UV protection.
- Often contains a preservative to prevent rot and insect infestation.
- Does not form a film that can lead to cracking and peeling.
- Recoating is easy with minimal prep needed.
- Less tendency for lap marks.
- Can be sprayed or brushed on.
- Best applied to bare wood, does not perform well over the top of existing stains.

Surface Stains

- Usually water-based and achieve relatively little in the way of penetration.
- Surface Stains adhere to the cellulose creating a protective film.
- Perform well if high quality resins are used and the product is properly applied.
- Soap and water cleanup can be expected.

Shallow Penetrating Stains

- Most commonly your more traditional oil-based stains.
- Penetration is normally 1-4 cells deep into the structure of the wood depending on several variables.
- If optimum penetration is not achieved, then a film is deposited on the surface that can peel overtime.
- If applied properly these stains perform well with good water repellent and UV surface protection.
- Shallow penetrating stains often have a sheen or glossy appearance.



LOG HOME STAINING

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Professional Log Home Staining

While not the most common type of home, there are a number of log homes and cabins in Maine. We offer log home staining as part of our exterior painting services. When it comes to log homes, maintaining the exterior of the house is a little different than other types of homes, due to the nature of the materials. If you're interested in this type of service, contact us for a free estimate.

Log Homes Need to Breathe

Due to the inner water content of the logs, they need the ability to breathe and release moisture. When log homes are initially built, the wood is left to dry typically for about a year. However, this isn't enough time to completely dry out the logs, in fact some homes still have moisture content even 10 years after the initial build. You can assume there is probably some moisture in the logs no matter the age of the home.

You Should Stain, and Not Paint Log Homes

The main reason for this is because of the moisture contained within the logs. Paint will completely seal the exterior log surfaces and leave nowhere for water vapor to go as it slowly makes its way out of the log. After a few years, wood rot is likely. While it is technically possible to paint the exterior of a log home, and if you really insist it can be done, but it would not be recommended. Additionally, paint covers up the ability to do a visual inspection of the logs, so if rot or damage does start to happen, you may completely miss it until it becomes severe.

Why Staining is Important for Log Homes

Stains will soak into the wood and allow the ability for moisture to escape the log, while still protecting from the elements on the outside of the home. Log homes should be stained approximately once every 3-7 years, depending on the types of materials used and the weather / conditions around the home. Lots of direct sunlight, rain, hail, or snow, can accelerate the rate at which staining applications should be done. Staining is one of the most important maintenance requirements for log homes and should be on your maintenance calendar if you own a property like this.

The Process for Staining Log Homes

The process for staining a home is overall, fairly simple. However, depending on the architecture and product selection there may be some unique challenges with accessing all the wood surfaces for prepping and staining. Here in Maine, 2 story homes with some hard-to-reach places are not uncommon. Take great care if you decide to DIY a staining project like this and seriously consider hiring a team of professionals.

1. Clean the exterior – Remove all dirt, bugs, debris that would otherwise interfere with the staining process, a hose or power washer are good methods of doing this.
2. Let the water from cleaning dry out and start the staining process. Use a moisture meter to ensure the surface is dry enough to stain. Some topcoats require full



removal of the existing stain. There are numerous ways to apply stain, but a sprayer and a brush are an efficient combo of tools. Spray on the stain, brush it into the wood. Work your way all the way around the house doing this process. Be generous with the stain application, don't skimp!

3. Make sure at least 30 min have passed and start the process over again for a 2nd coat of stain.

Popular Products for Log Homes

- Outlast Q8 Log Oil
- Perma-Chink Lifeline and Log Defense
- Continental Products WeatherSeal
- SuperDeck Log Home and Deck Stain
- Sashco Transformation Stain
- Cabot Australian Timber Oil
- Sashco Capture Log Stain & Cascade Clear Coat
- DEFY Log Home Stain & Log Sealer
- PPG Proluxe (previously known as Sikken's) Log and Siding Stain
- PPG Proluxe Cetol 23 plus

There are lots of great products to choose from! Each product has its own unique properties and benefits.