



www.prowellwoodworks.com

Box 785 Sebastopol, CA 95473

PST: 800 . 466 . 1850 FAX: 707 . 861 . 3409

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Prowell's products are exposed fully to the elements in a way unknown to the wood siding of a house or a front door or a garage door, etc, and consequently expecting them to accept any finish with the same forgiveness and lifeline is leashing yourself to a maintenance schedule every few years that is at odds with nature, and a rather painful recurring expense.

Western Cedar is extremely resistance to decay, combined with Prowell's specified grade from the mill and the methods of construction, there is no finish that will prolong the life of our products by a single day.

APPLICATION TIPS

A few tips for those who will be finishing their own products: When applying your finish, start with one side, brushing the bottom rail with the grain and then the vertical stiles with the grain to avoid the brush strokes over-lapping. (This is particularly important with WoodRx, which is water-based and dries very fast). For all horizontal rails, not allowing the brush stroke to dry before brushing the vertical stile. Do not apply stain to the edges of the pickets or upper pattern on this side or the stain will run down the opposite side and leave run marks penetrating the bare wood before you are able to finish the opposite side. For those with solid lower panels, do not stain the edges of your open slots until the back side is addressed. Once you turn to the other side, you can then apply stain to the picket faces and edges, knowing the run-off will not absorb against the already stained surface. Check, when finished, the direction of your brush stroke to smooth out any over-laps. Spray finishes: All of the above recommended products can be applied with compressed air sprayers for a more even finish without the risk of runs. WoodRX sells an accompanying sprayer, available direct from them or through Home Depot.

Finishing with Earth-Tones

WoodRX

By far the most advanced exterior finish available.

A non-toxic environmentally-friendly finish for exterior applications. Easy application and quick drying allows for two coats within two hours. (The second coat is extremely important). Because of the quick drying, it also all but eliminates the collection of dust particles gathering between coats. Although it can be brushed, it's best to spray. If



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brushing, maintain a wet edge to your brush to avoid overlapping brush strokes against the grain.

Within the above aesthetic, there is a distinction between organic wilderness and cultivated wilderness. If the lot is large and the gates and fences extend some distance from the residence and as a perimeter to carefully maintained landscapes, it is architecturally preferable to finish the products with any of the earth-toned patinas offered by WoodRX. This distinguishes the hardscape (fences, gates, etc) from the residence by separating natural colors from architectural colors. A waxy finish with a satin sheen.

*Non-toxic, water-based formula. Easy clean-up. Odorless. Quick drying. Longer lasting..

*Timeline: 7-8+ years.

*Click on the WoodRX image for more information, or order through Home Depot or Lowe's websites w/ sprayer.

\$44+/_gallon + shipping.

Slightly waxy finish with a satin sheen.

[To view their web site](#)

[To view their color charts](#)

[To view the colors on our products](#)

To order:

www.woodrx.com

Address:

5601 Banner Dr

Fort Myers, FL 33912

Nationwide: (800) 883-5150

Local Phone: (239) 939-1072

E-Mail:

sales@woodrx.com

Also available through the online stores of Home depot and Lowes, including the WoodR sprayer.

Finishing with Color

_Paint, Semi-transparent stains, solid-body stains.

There are those sites when the hardscape such as fences and gates are inexorably linked to the architecture of the residence. Smaller lots, dominated to a larger degree by the residential structure where the fences, gates arbors adjoin the building and never stray too



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far to establish an identity apart from the primary architecture itself. They are viewed upon first impression as accessories to the building, mimicking signature precedents drawn from the window sashes or entry porticoes. (In this paradigm, we go from a heirarchy of, say, shutters to porch railings to the connected hardscapes fences/gates/arbors that fall within the immediate perview of one impression) So, in these scenarios it is normally best to carry the color pallete of the house body, or trim, onto the hardscapes.

This is done with either paint, or color pigmented stains (see more detailed information below . . . while understanding that to evero so many in the industry, color rules supreme.).

Finishing with Exterior Varnishes

--Spar Varnish, Varathane, etc

Although there may be a tendency to match the luster of a front door, it should be noted that the front door is insulated on one side and protected by a jamb and an eave and often a porch roof as well. Using luster varnishes associated with wood boats will require enormous maintenance. Because Prowell products do not need the protection, such finishes are a personal aesthetic preference and of those who've opted for the glamour of a sheen, they've come to regret the liability and eventually, ultimately, slacked off to the result of cracking and peeling and yellowing patinas akin to the flaking skin of a severe sunburn.

Pre-Weathered Finish

A distressed pre-weathered finish drawn from a centuries-old remedy that transforms freshly milled wood into a silvery grey overnight. This is a mildly distressed procedure that results in an aged aesthetic with a mixture of hard cider and the chemical reaction occurring with the dilution of steel wool. The more steel wool, the longer it settles, and the darker the gray. As the coloring wears off over the next couple of years, the underlying cedar is gradually exposed and gradually graying itself until the transformation is completed, and unnoticed. The advantage is an obvious one: You simply do not have to wait two years for the brightly-milled cedar to become a stately silvery gray.

The process does not involve pigments; there is no finish layering the surface of the cedar. The dilution simply reacts to the tannins within the cedar, resulting in a discoloration that is maneuvered somewhat by the mixture of cider vinegar to steel wool, and the time it is allowed to dissolve.



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*** If your Prowell product is left in the weather unfinished, absorbing dew, fog, humidity, and rainfall, do NOT apply a finish until it has fully dried (2 days of sunny weather). To do otherwise will be to seal in the moisture it has taken on from rain, fog, even humidity, and leave it no means of escape. This will result in probably warping and cupping and a damaged product.*

ALTERNATE FINISHES

Advantages and Disadvantages

OIL FINISHES

Oil finishes are those finishes that have no pigment, no polyurethanes, and no sealing capacities. These finishes are always earth tones whose primary function is to enrich the wood's existing grain. These finishes do not extend the life of the cedar product by a single day.

Advantages

1) Provides an enriched timbre to the wood.

Disadvantages

1) They must be re-applied once every year.. If neglected they will simply lose their clarity and the wood will gradually season to a grayish color. 2) They further enhance the darker and lighter contrasts existing in western cedar. ** Oil enhancers are developed for a single even coat. Successive coats result in a splotchy finish.

PAINTED FINISHES

Painted finishes can provide a long lifeline (7-10 yrs), as well as offer a full medley of color options. Because our products need to acclimate to any local climate, painted finishes are not available as a pre-finish option. Paint is an applied finish layered onto the cedar and does not stretch with the initial breathing wood as easily and readily as the absorbing, penetrating WoodRX finish. If the products are primed and painted prior to being fully acclimated, there is a chance of the paint bubbling or even cracking. (We're repeating ourselves, yet again!)

Advantages:

1) Long lifeline of 7-10 years

2) Flat or satin sheen. Wipe-able surfaced. 3) Option of unlimited colors.

Disadvantages:

1) Not offered as a pre-finish, so it must be applied on site, with the product installed. (setting your gate in the garage for a month does not serve to acclimate it to the direct climate.)

2) Our products must adjust to your climate, requiring a 3-4 week delay between installation and paint



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3) If not properly maintained, the painted finish will check and crack and peel, requiring extension prep of scraping and sanding prior to re-applying another coat.

MARINE SPAR VARNISHES

Unless you are a wooden boat enthusiast who loves spending several weekends a year refinishing your Prowell product, marine and Spar varnishes should be avoided. This includes any product that is 2-part, or includes a top sealer coat that often results in a pleasant sheen.

Advantages:

1) Offers a shiny finish.

Disadvantages:

1) Binds the cedar behind multiple layers of resin that inhibits the products from their natural need to breathe.

2) Requires maintenance every 1-2 years.

3) If not kept maintained, it will crack and peel and yellow, furthering the labor-intensive steps of re-coating See photo below

SOLID-BODY STAINS

Solid-body stains are slightly more penetrating than paint, although not to be confused with the fully absorbent WoodRX. These finishes offer a wide range of colors and are aesthetically identical to paint, but without the option for a satin finish. Because they do not absorb, they cannot be applied until the wood has acclimated to your local weather. Solid body stains are opaque and do not expose the wood grain. Can be brushed or sprayed.

Advantages: 1) Wide color pallet 2) Longer lifeline than transparent stains. 3) If not maintained, it will not chip or crack like paint; the color will simply fade out gradually.

Disadvantages:

1) Cannot be shipped or delivered as a pre-finish from the shop.

2) Shows no wood grain.

3) Requires two coats.

4) Insures laborious repercussions if the maintenance schedule is not adhered to. (p.s. Regarding ending the above sentence with a preposition

SEMI-TRANSPARENT STAINS

Semi-Transparent stains are absorbing finishes that will stretch with the breathing wood. They will not hinder the wood from seasonal changes. These are offered in a variety of color pallets and can serve to match the residential color while offering a somewhat organic dilution of a paint.

Advantages:

1) Shows the wood grain and can match the body or trim color of the house, but as a flexible, absorbing finish.

2) Easy to apply. But only one coat. Do not apply a second coat of semi-transparent



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stains, as it will not be able to penetrate through the first sealing coat and therefore result in a splotchy finish.

3) If not maintained, it will simply fade out instead of the cracking and peeling of unmaintained paint.

Disadvantages:

1) It lasts only 3-5 years.