Cleaning and maintenance of SiOO:X coated timber

SiOO:X is a water-based silicate treatment, which cures over time to form a flexible silica network within the wood structure.

The result is that the timber surface is toughened, and an even silvering effect takes place, giving the wood a driftwood grey colour. The full curing process takes 2-3 years, though a significant colour change will be evident within a few months.



Like all external finishes, timber cladding/decking will require periodic cleaning and maintenance to preserve its optimal condition and appearance.

Regular cleaning of spiderwebs and light surface dirt can be done easily with a soft brush and water as part of a normal maintenance program.

For light accumulations of surface dirt, a mild detergent solution can be used.

Maintenance / reapplication advice

SiOO:X is a durable surface impregnation treatment. It is structurally bonded with the wood surface layer and will not chip or peel.

Cladding

For cladding applications SiOO:X can last 10+ years without maintenance.

Further applications to refresh the cladding is straightforward, simply involving cleaning the surface and reapplying the coating.



In our experience most customers choose to leave their SiOO:X coated cladding without maintenance, as the silver effect blends back with the naturally weathered appearance of the wood over time.

Decking

It is recommended for SiOO:X coated decking that an additional coat of SiOO:X Surface Protection is applied after 1 year, and every 4 years thereafter*

SiOO:X treated decking can look uneven for some weeks following reapplication of the surface protector, but this balances out after a few weeks as the surface protector cures.

Depending on traffic and exposure the full SiOO:X system can be reapplied every 10-15 years.
*Excepting other cleaning/maintenance

Other maintenance factors & further cleaning information

Stain Fungi
The occurrence of stain fungi is a normal part of the weathering process.

Stain fungi feeds on the starches and sugars which exude from the timber surface during the first few years of the wood's service life. Surface dirt from nearby plant debris and insect life can also provide a fuel source for the fungi. In certain situations, e.g. in sheltered or damp areas, or in close proximity to woodland and other vegetation, timber can be more susceptible to more rapid or extensive onset of stain fungi.

Stain fungi tends to appear as dark spots or areas on the timber and is usually triggered by damp or humid conditions.



*For more intense stain fungi blooms it is recommended to check that the area in question has adequate ventilation and drainage to the cavity, and there is not an undiagnosed water leak or runoff onto the timber. It is important to note that while stain fungi can be unsightly it does not compromise the durability or performance of the timber.

With adequate drainage and ventilation in place, stain fungi will usually burn itself out after 2-3 years. Once the sugars and starches in the surface have been exhausted and barring external fuel sources from plant debris etc, the fungi will die off.

Residual stains will normally fade as the timber weathers and as the SiOO:X silica networks build. In the summer months there will be further diminution as photo bleaching occurs.

For faster treatment of stain fungi, a mild fungicidal wash can be applied.

SiOO:X Re-Wash
Heavier accumulations of surface dirt or algae growth.



Mix 250ml of the 1 litre bottle of SiOO:X Re-Wash to 5ltr of clean water. This will give a coverage rate of 35m2 per 5ltr. Note that porosity of the timber will affect the above coverage rate.

Stir to mix. Apply the diluted cleaner to the area using a soft bristle brush (car washing brush is perfect).

Once the cleaner has been applied it will start to aerate & foam up on the surface. It is important to leave the cleaner on the surface for a minimum of 20 minutes. Clean the surface with clean water. For any persistent surface dirt & algae re-apply the above. Allow all cleaned surfaces to dry.

Re-apply a full-bodied coat of SiOO:X Surface Protection to all areas.

SiOO:X Re-Wash can be purchased on www.shop.russwood.co.uk

SiOO:X Pre-Wash
For intensive cleaning of stain fungi, water marks and other stains.



For more intensive cleaning of SiOO:X coated timber affected by stain fungi or other heavy soiling we recommend SiOO:X Pre-Wash.

Mix with water in a 1:8 dilution for regular cleaning, or a 1:4 ratio for more heavily soiled areas. One litre of diluted liquid is enough for about 4-5 square metres, depending on the degree of dirt and dilution.

Rinse the surface with water, apply the pre-wash with a brush and leave it on for 10 minutes. Scrub with a medium-stiff decking brush and rinse off with water.

Following cleaning with SiOO:X Pre-Wash it is essential to follow up with a coat of SiOO:X Surface Protection.

SiOO:X Pre-Wash can be purchased on www.shop.russwood.co.uk