

Applying Finishes to New Wood

A water repellent preservative (clear coat) provides the best finish for your ramp. If you choose to use a clear coat, apply a coat 6-8 months after weathering.

Oil based penetrating stains (semi-transparent) have the best appearance and durability. This has a shorter lifespan than a solid color stain. However, it is more easily renewed; it does not peel and does not require scraping or sanding.

Light colored penetrating stains, whether oil or water based, last longer than dark ones. this is especially true if the ramp is most often in full sun. They also show the least contrast in grain color as traffic happens over time. Dark colors make the wood hotter. Shadier areas tend to have mildew staining and green moss. Avoid oil-based products if the ramp is in shadier areas.



RAMP MAINTENANCE

How To Maintain Your New Ramp For Increased Longevity



Tips For Fall And Winter Maintenance

To ensure your safety while using your ramp it is recommended that you follow these guidelines:

1. Keep the ramp free of leaves.
Leaves are slippery when wet and can stain the surface.
2. Keep the ramp clear of sticks. Sticks get lodged in the deck boards and can be a tripping hazard.
3. Always use a plastic shovel or broom for snow removal. A metal shovel can dig in and tear up the surface of the ramp.



4. Use a Quick Melt type products to get rid of ice.
5. **DO NOT USE ROCK SALT.** Rock salt hastens the corrosion of screws and other metal fasteners. It also adds to the degradation of the wood fibers.

Refinishing is Required every 1-2 years

We recommend a new ramp NOT be treated/sealed for 1 year. Refinishing your ramp is best done in the spring. Before staining, clean ramp with Oxyclean type bleach and water, or deck cleaner.

A good stiff bristled broom or brush with your choice of deck cleaner will remove mildew, dirt and gray residue caused by sunlight degradation. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and let the wood dry for several days before applying finish. **DO NOT PRESSURE WASH YOUR RAMP.** Too much pressure and/or the wrong nozzle can cause serious, permanent damage to wood.

Always Use A Product That Has UV Sun protection to Treat Your Ramp

UV Rays are most harmful to wood. It is recommended that you use a product that protects against growth of mildew and algae. Some natural water repellent products are actually food for mildew and algae.



Use Of A Brush, Pad Or Roller is Recommended Over A Sprayer

Always work with the grain of the wood. Remember to seal the open end grains of the wood to prevent moisture from getting into the lumber.