



# To Stain or not to Stain?

## 2. How long should I leave pressure-treated timber to weather for?

Advice will vary according to the timber product and manufacturing + treatment processes. Below is a rough guide but do refer to manufacturer's instructions.

- \* If your timbers have been freshly pressure treated the industry recommend that it is left to weather and settle down for 2-3 months before applying a **paint** product. This is for 2 reasons;
  - (i) there may be salt residue from the preservation chemical on the surface of the timber that needs to come off. If you apply a coating on top of these salts the coating won't be able to adhere fully to the timber and when the salts come off, they could take the coating off as well. You could help speed up this process by rinsing off the surfaces then allowing them to dry.
  - (ii) depending on what preservation chemicals have been used, there may be waxes that need to weather off as they may block new coatings from adhering fully to the timber. Again this could be speeded up by washing surfaces with water and detergent. You can check with the manufacturer to see whether the preservative used on the timber has wax additives.
- \* With micro-porous **wood stains** such as Protek's you can apply them earlier than the recommended 2-3 months as long as the timber has dried out. This allows you to provide water-proofing protection, which is especially important on timber buildings. It is **essential** to firstly remove any surface dirt and residues left over from pressure-treatment chemicals.
- \* Applying wood stains to fresh timber can result in resin bleed and tannins staining the coating. Fresh resin can still be bleeding out of the timber and could push the coating out and off from the surface. This is easily prevented by applying a knotting agent or stain-blocking primer prior to applying a wood stain. Alternatively any resin bleed or staining can be easily rectified at a 12 month maintenance session by just lightly sanding off the expelled resin plus loose and stained coating, then applying a fresh coat.



Brand new softwood bench painted with 2 coats of Royal Exterior



After 4 months bench and coating in perfect condition with no bleeding or splitting



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Only one small section on the table has experienced some resin bleed

