

Q & A

Find our most commonly asked questions below.

DRYING & CURING PROCESS SHEET

Q. What is the coverage rate of the products?

Typically 150-175 sqft per gallon, depending on the porosity of the wood.

Q. Will Sundance Stain Sealers leave a shiny/glossy finish?

No, they leave a very natural deep wood finish with a vibrant wood look, highlighting the wood grain with no shine or sheen.

Click on our "[Blinded by the Light](#)" to read our blog regarding!

Q. Can I apply the Sundance Wood Stain Sealers to my new deck or log home? If yes, how do I know when the wood is ready?

Yes, our product is made of new and old wood! If you pour a cup of water on the wood and it absorbs, it is ready to be stained. If it beads up, wait a bit longer- which can be as soon as a few months or as long as six months +. Erroring on the side of stain sealing sooner than too late will always benefit your exterior wood. It will never hurt it to be too soon. Too late, and U.V. damage, water damage via hydrolysis, cupping, and checking are probable.

Q. Can I use and apply Sundance Wood Stain Sealers on my deck, cedar, and or log home that I have stain-sealed before?

Yes, if the proper prepping is done. That will be determined by what existing finish is on there now.

1. First, always know what's been put on it in the past and what you're putting on now!

2. Read the SDS sheets and know what's in the product!

Q. What is the benefit of prepping the wood?

Since SWSS are penetrating oil-based sealers, they work best the more porous the wood is. It's fabulous for first-time sealing of old and new wood. If your deck and or cedar or log home have been previously stained-sealed, the goal would be to remove the old finish as much as possible by power washing, stripping, and or sanding. Even a brand-new wood should be lightly power-washed to remove mill glaze.

*Typically most sealants on the market fail after one or two years. If the previous stain-sealer was oil-based, leftover remnants of the old finish should be fine and blend in if you choose a wood tone in the same color range, *provided it didn't have any organic oils such as linseed and tung oils. In that case, sanding or stripping off remaining finish is advisable if other cleaning attempts are unsuccessful, as organic oils typically leave polymerized sheened patchy areas.*

If you have previously applied a water-based semi-transparent stain-sealer that is fading away and you have skillfully pressure washed, it should be OK to apply. However, you don't want to apply over any leftover sheened impermeable acrylic finishes from prior applications

If you have a solid body acrylic finish on it now (painted look), you won't be able to remove it, and our stain-sealer will not be compatible. Please don't apply!

Q. What is the best way to clean and remove the old finish off a previously sealed pressure-treated wood deck or log-timber home?

That will be determined by what was put on it before and how much is left from the prior applications. Applying a cleaner solution will be a good start but only sometimes necessary if you are skilled with using a power washer. Less is better if it works! If extremely moldy and dirty using a cleaner solution will enable you not to have to get as close, requiring less skill to remove the oxidation and mold with the P.W. Make sure any wood cleaner does not contain sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) in it, which is used for stripping and is extremely harsh on wood, often requiring sanding. A solution that contains sodium percarbonate (oxygenic bleach) and some TSP (Trisodium Phosphate) is best! Oxalic acid is used to remove tannins on cedar and redwood and is the neutralizer to correct the ph of wood after stripping a deck with sodium hydroxide. Regular bleach is a bit harsh on wood and not advised unless you have a heavy mold infestation. Use a garden pump sprayer to apply the cleaner solution first, then scrubbing it with a deck brush out of a 5-gallon buck will work well. Be sure to rinse, and rinse well all surrounding areas! If you have used our product in the past, you will not have to go past a light scrubbing and/or light power-washing at the most!

Q. What is the best technique with a power washer?

Care should be given never to put burn marks in the wood with a P.W. as it can damage the wood if not done with the proper technique. The goal is a sweeping level motion without stopping, pushing off the dirt, mold, and, hopefully, old finish. Pending the size of the P.W. will determine how close and fast that motion is. Pay attention to what you're doing to the wood. Typically, the sweet spot for cleaning is 4 to 6 inches away with a power washer rated at 3500 PSI or higher. Using a white tip (40 degrees is best. When you P.W., keep track of where you are; when the wood is wet, it's easy to skip over areas and miss them. Like taking off and landing a plane. Keep the wand's motion going until you get to the end of the stroke, and pull up immediately. Keep the wand tip perpendicular to the wood so as not to splinter it, and keep it level by putting pressure to it.

Q. Do you advise using a stripper if power-washing with a cleaner solution does not work?

Stripping your deck and/or log home is doable with oil-based products, but problematic with water-based products. However, it isn't easy and best left to a professional, as the right chemicals must be used properly. Sodium Hydroxide, found in most oil-based strippers, is dangerous to work with, and great care must be taken to work with it. Stripping will typically negatively affect the wood, often leaving it fuzzy. Care should be taken to ensure the wood is chemically neutralized and has the correct pH. The reality is that sanding is almost a given, so it may be the preferred way to skip the stripping altogether, since sanding will probably be required anyway.

Q. Is sanding always required, and are there any tips on sanding?

If the wood has little leftover remnants of the old finish after the cleaning is correctly done, SWSS should work fine without sanding, provided it doesn't have and slick patchy areas. In those cases, sanding the affected areas. Generally, sanding the spindles is only necessary if they have heavy discoloration or drippy runs from the old finish. If you elect to strip with chemicals, it will take its toll on the wood, and sanding will be required. All sanding should be done with an orbital sander with 80-grit paper. Please don't use a belt sander. If sanding off prints, do not over-grind, as you will create a light spot. The product will cover any remaining slight ink spots, so don't overdo it. You may be limited to a similar color if there is any amount of old finish left.

Q. Will I have to go through this every time to apply with Sundance Wood Stain sealer?

NO! Once you've correctly prepped and removed the old finish, all you'll need to do with ours in the future is a good cleaning before reapplication. Any leftover stain will blend right in.

Q. How much product do I need to do the job?

Generally, 150 SQFT- 175 SQFT per gallon, depending on the porosity of the wood. Remember to thoroughly saturate the wood once till it looks like wet paint once, then back-roll it without any more product put on as the last step. Be assured it won't look like paint after it dries and cures. If it's wet the next day, you should wipe up the excess as you have put on too much.

Q. What tools and applicators work best for applying?

The product is straightforward and forgiving to work with. It can be applied in a variety of ways. Hand brushing, hand rolling, and spraying are all workable. If spraying, always back-roll behind. A pole brush works well for hand brushing. When using a pole roller, do not roll too fast, as you will splatter the stain; for that reason, take care when rolling near a wall. A plush ¾- to 1-inch roller cover is advised. Purdy makes a Purdy Colossus roller cover that works well. Compact 4–6-inch mini rollers and a wool painter's mitt work well on spindles.

Q. What is the best way to protect the house and landscaping from dripping or overspray from rolling or spraying the sealant?

At a minimum, you'll want to place sheathing (plastic or tarps) under the deck and along the perimeter to protect against any dripping during product application. Our stain-sealer does not drip easily, but generously saturating the wood once may cause some to drip. If spraying, you'll want to tape, clip, and/or staple plastic (1-2 mil) to cover all walls above and below the deck.

Q. Do I do the floor or railing first?

Always do the vertical railing/post first, and the horizontals (flats/floor) last.

Q. Should I apply a second coat for better coverage and protection?

No! *This is a one-application product, and you will want to fully saturate the wood once. Back rolling should leave it wet and looking like a painted surface initially. As the product cures into the wood, it will take on the semi-transparent look it will end up with. Over-application will cause issues for you, as it will not cure into the wood and will lie on top, potentially causing tracking and unevenness. If it's still wet the next day, you should wipe it down because you've put on too much. Let it run its course in curing before even considering touching up what you perceive as light areas. Chances are, the light areas you think need more product are areas of the wood absorbing at different rates. Knot holes will show drying first. Areas that receive excessive sunlight will dry first. You may want to apply less product to the areas closer to the house that have been in the shade, and wipe off any excess if you overapply. You want to avoid playing whack-a-mole behind your application with a brush constantly touching up. It will end up with a uniform finish once it cures out!*

Q. What happens if it rains the same day I've stained?

Once the sealant is applied to dry wood, it immediately penetrates and will repel water. Rain will only be a problem if it falls heavily while the sealant is still wet. As long as the deck has been back-rolled and has 2-3 hours to set up, the following rain should be fine.

Q. How fast will the product dry, and how long should I wait to walk on it?

Typically, you can carefully walk on it the next day, avoiding damp areas. If any areas are still wet, you should remove any excess product. You should be able to put your furniture back on and walk freely within 48 hours. If applied inside a screened-in porch, give it a 3rd day to be safe. As a precaution, wipe your feet on a mat for the first week after walking on the deck before entering the house.

Q. What are the best temperatures to put it on?

The wood needs to be completely dry before application and is best applied between 45 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Q. Why does it look darker than the pictures on the website?

This is normal. Depending on the age and porosity of your wood, it may have different degrees of sealant retention. The older the deck, the more sealant it will retain., thus the deeper tone. All the wood will lighten over the coming weeks. The amount of sun, temperature, and the wood's porosity will be the primary factors determining how quickly it will lighten. Uneven curing patterns will disappear over the next 30 to 60 days. At the end of the curing process, you will see a completely uniform finish that enhances and accentuates the wood's natural grain.

Q. What are some tips/steps regarding application usage and applying?

This product is actually very easy to work with! When you apply, you can always finish the board to the end. Apply one liberal, generous coat of product, soaking the wood well so that it looks almost like solid paint initially. It is very important to backroll or brush after applying the one and only coat. This product is meant to penetrate the wood, not lie on top, so don't over-apply. When doing the floor last, you'll need to cut in along walls with a brush first. A pole brush works best when applying the cracks before you roll out or brush the one coat on the flats.

When applying to the deck's flat surfaces, it's best to let it set up for several hours, soak into the wood, and then give it a final back-roll to eliminate any footprints you may have left walking on it after putting it down. The product dries slowly but is very forgiving. You'll have ample time (8-12 hours) to work with it before the final back roll. The product won't drip easily, but it can if applied a bit heavily, so you should use plastic sheathing to cover areas under and around the deck or stonework on the home. If working in an enclosed or covered area, it might be wise to add 1/5 mineral spirits, as the wood's pores will be tighter and the mineral spirits make it easier to penetrate. You'll definitely want to wipe any excess or wetness off the floor if it's still wet the next day.

Tips for the Bucket Lids!

The buckets are opened by pulling the tab off the lid. They are purposely hard to remove, but doable to keep from coming open if the bucket is knocked over. Be sure to hammer down the lid securely after finishing! Always stir well to ensure any settlement or separation at the bottom is mixed in before applying the product!