



Technical Tip

Hot Weather Applications

Applications of all Perma-Chink exterior finish removers, cleaners, stains, topcoats and sealants can be a bit of a challenge in extremely hot weather, i.e. over 90 degrees F. However, if you know what to expect and avoid you can easily cope with applications during the hot summer months. We'll address each of our product lines individually.

Finish Removers

Although finish removers work better at higher temperatures than cold ones, in order for them to continue doing their job they must remain damp. If you allow them to dry out they will no longer work. In the case of S-100 if it is a very hot, dry day you should wet the wall with water prior to applying the S-100. This will help extend the time before it starts to dry out and if you see it begin to dry, keep lightly misting it with water. Just be sure not to apply so much water that it starts to run down the wall.

Smart Strip is a bit more resistant to drying out than S-100, however when exposed to direct sunlight it too will stop working and turn into a white powdery coating. If it does appear that it's drying keep it wet with a light mist of water or cover it with plastic film.

If either S-100 or Smart Strip dries on the chinking, sealants or wood, wash the residue off using just water and a soft bristled brush.

Cleaners

Like the finish removers, cleaners also stop working if they dry out. Keep Wood ReNew and Log Wash damp with a light mist of water until it's time to wash them off. The same thing applies to Oxcon if it's used. It's especially important to keep Oxcon wet. If it dries and crystallizes on the wood the resultant oxalic crystals become very difficult to rinse off.

Stains and Topcoats

It is the surface temperature of the wall that has the largest impact on the application of a stain or topcoat in hot weather. The hotter the surface temperature, the faster the finish will dry. It is not unusual for log surface temperatures to exceed 170 degrees when exposed to hot sunlight. At these temperatures drying times can be reduced to a matter of seconds, too fast for adequate back-brushing. Once the finish is on the wall it does not really matter if it gets hit by hot, direct sunlight. It's the surface temperature during the application process that's critical.

On the south and west walls it may be best to start early in the morning while the walls are still cool. Later in the afternoon, even if the sun is no longer hitting the wall, the surface temperature may still be well over 100 degrees.

Sealants (Perma-Chink, Energy Seal, Woodsman, Check Mate 2)

Sealants are more sensitive to direct sunlight even in cooler temperatures than they are to heat in general. That's because direct sunlight accelerates the "skinning over" of the sealant trapping the water contained within the product. When this water converts to water vapor and tries to escape from the product it can create bubbles or blisters on the surface of the sealant. High ambient temperatures do influence the viscosity of sealants, they become more fluid, but for the most part they can still be successfully applied even when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees as long as the freshly applied product is protected from direct sunlight.