

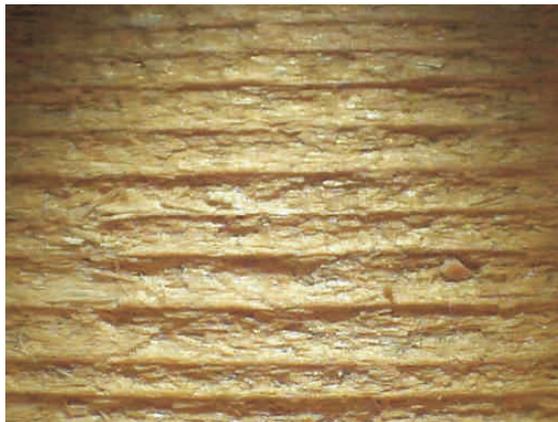
Technical Tip

Washing Media Blasted Surfaces

If a home has been media blasted is it really necessary to wash down the wood with a Log Wash solution before it is stained? We believe so and here's why. If corncob grit is used and you take a close look at a blasted wood surface you will find lots of corn cob particles embedded in the wood. Along with the particles are invisible mold spores that can germinate and feed on the corn cob grit. To prevent mold spots from developing under the stain these mold spores need to be removed, preferably by washing the surface with a solution of Log Wash. Even if glass, walnut shells, dry ice or other types of blasting media is used we still recommend washing down the blasted surface to remove any remaining dust particles that may be adhering to the wood. Blowing high pressure air on the wall will not totally remove all of the dust and old finish residue and without actually washing the surface you run the risk of compromising the adhesion of the new finish.

On the other hand, most chemical strippers and cleaners do a good job eliminating mold spores and dust particles which is why it may not be necessary to use Log Wash if the home is going to be stained within a few days stripping or cleaning. However, if the stain application is delayed more than five to seven days after the wall has been chemically cleaned, an application of a two cups per gallon Log Wash solution should be made, rinsed and the wood allowed to dry before the stain is applied. It only takes a few days for enough mold spores, pollen and dirt to accumulate on bare wood to create a problem later on.

We always recommend thorough cleaning and preparation procedures because careful preparation is the best way to help prevent unsightly fungal growth under our transparent finishes and to ensure the best adhesion and longevity of our exterior stain and topcoat systems.



Media grit embedded in surface