



Benjamin Moore®

ARBORCOAT®

PREMIUM EXTERIOR STAIN





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The natural beauty of wood—with its unique grain patterns and warm colors—transforms outdoor living space. Benjamin Moore[®] ARBORCOAT includes a complete selection of premium exterior stains and preparation products to enhance and preserve the enduring beauty of wood decks, siding and furniture.

This project guide is designed to help you choose the right ARBORCOAT products and succeed at any staining project.

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MAINTAINING YOUR FINISH
STAINING YOUR FURNITURE
STAINING YOUR SIDING
STAINING YOUR DECK
PREPARING ANY WOOD SURFACE
CHOOSING YOUR PRODUCTS

CHOOSING YOUR PRODUCTS

ARBORCOAT offers different opacities (varying degrees of transparency), different product types (waterborne and classic oil finishes) and different colors. These choices ensure that you have the best product for your particular project. Here are some important points to consider to simplify your selection.

OPACITY

Clear sealers show the full grain of the wood. Translucent, Semi-Transparent and Semi-Solid stains show less and less respectively without completely obscuring the natural color and texture. Solid stain masks the wood grain, while allowing only a small amount of texture to show through.

Solid stains can be used on previously painted or new wood, as well as composite decking. Note: Solid stains create a completely new surface aesthetic.

WATERBORNE VS. CLASSIC OIL FINISH

Waterborne stains clean up easily, dry quickly and provide excellent UV protection, which slows down the fading of the wood's color, known as graying. Benjamin Moore's waterborne technology uses our proprietary Gennex® colorants for long-lasting durability. Classic oil finishes penetrate deep into the wood, resulting in a uniform finish that protects the wood inside and out. These stains are proven to minimize peeling and cracking and are easy to recoat.



COLOR

Begin your color selection by looking at existing colors outside your home. Consider the color and look of your roof, siding, trim, driveway, foundation, stone fencing, plantings, trees or any other surrounding details. Select colors that enhance existing features or hues that tie together elements for a coordinated look.

Always test your color selections on the actual wood so you can accurately gauge the final look. Remember that the natural color or grain pattern of the wood itself can greatly influence final color. Here, we show several examples of how a stain color can vary based purely on the undertones or grain pattern of the wood.



All samples are coated with Semi-Transparent stain in Hamilton Blue. All wood samples used are red cedar. Both color and grain pattern drastically change the finished look of the wood.

As is the case with all paints and stains, the in-can color of ARBORCOAT stain may vary from the final, fully cured color.

ARBORCOAT® WATERBORNE EXTERIOR STAINS



ARBORCOAT Waterproofer (0320)

Ideal for annual maintenance and protection from UV and water damage.

- Water-based
- Clear



ARBORCOAT Protective Clear Coat (0636)

A clear, protective topcoat.

- Use over Semi-Transparent and Semi-Solid waterborne stains
- Adds additional UV protection
- Use as an annual refresher coat to extend the life of the stain
- Provides a low-lustre finish



ARBORCOAT Translucent Deck & Siding Stain (W623)

A premium-quality, waterborne, Translucent stain that allows the full beauty of the wood to show through.

- Mildew-resistant coating with UV protection
- Excellent for hardwoods
- Available in six ready-mixed colors



ARBORCOAT Semi-Transparent Deck & Siding Stain (N638)

A premium-quality, waterborne, Semi-Transparent stain that enhances the beauty of the wood with color, while still allowing most of the grain and texture of the wood to show through.

- Mildew-resistant coating with superior UV protection
- Ideal for soft woods such as cedar and pine
- Available in 75 colors



ARBORCOAT Semi-Solid Deck & Siding Stain (0639)

A premium-quality, waterborne, Semi-Solid stain that covers most imperfections, while allowing some of the grain and texture of the wood to show through.

- Mildew-resistant coating with UV protection
- Excellent durability for decks and siding
- Available in 75 colors



ARBORCOAT Solid Deck & Siding Stain (0640)

A premium-quality, waterborne, Solid stain that allows the texture of the wood to show through.

- Mildew-resistant coating with superior UV protection
- Outstanding hide
- Excellent long-term durability for decks and siding
- Available in thousands of colors



ARBORCOAT Ultra Flat Solid Siding & Fences Stain (0610)

A premium-quality, waterborne, ultra flat Solid stain that allows the texture of the wood to show through.

- Mildew-resistant coating with superior UV protection
- Outstanding hide
- Excellent long-term durability for siding and fences
- Available in thousands of colors

ARBORCOAT CLASSIC OIL FINISHES



ARBORCOAT Alkyd Translucent Deck & Siding Stain (0326)/(C326)

A premium-quality, oil-based, Translucent stain that allows the full beauty of the wood to show through.

- Resists cracking and peeling
- Mildew-resistant coating
- Available in six ready-mixed colors
- Ideal for hardwoods



ARBORCOAT Alkyd Semi-Transparent Deck & Siding Stain (0328)/(C328)

A premium-quality, oil-based, Semi-Transparent stain that enhances the beauty of the wood with color, while allowing most of the grain and texture of the wood to show through.

- Resists cracking and peeling
- Mildew-resistant coating
- Available in 75 colors



ARBORCOAT Alkyd Semi-Solid Deck & Siding Stain (0329)/(C329)

A premium-quality, oil-based, Semi-Solid stain that covers most imperfections, while allowing some of the grain and texture of the wood to show through.

- Resists cracking and peeling
- Superior durability
- Mildew-resistant coating
- Ideal for aging or weathered wood
- Available in 75 colors



ARBORCOAT Exterior Oil Primer (0366)

Ideal for controlling tannin bleed under solid color stains.

- Penetrating oil-based formula
- Available in white and deep bases

Not all products are available in all areas. Please see your local Benjamin Moore® retailer for availability.

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PREPARATION PRODUCTS



CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)

- Ideal for annual maintenance cleaning.
- Removes stains from mold and mildew
 - Concentrated formula (7:1 mix ratio)



REMOVE Finish Remover (0315)

- Ideal for removing old stain prior to restaining.
- Removes alkyd and latex stains
 - Concentrated formula (4:1 mix ratio)



RESTORE Wood Restorer (N316)

- Ideal for restoring natural color to wood by removing dead wood fiber.
- Removes moderate to severe stains from mold and mildew
 - Concentrated formula (8:1 mix ratio)



BRIGHTEN Brightener & Neutralizer (0317)

- Ideal for counteracting the darkening effect of RESTORE on tannin-rich woods such as cedar and redwood.
- Removes tannin and rust stains
 - Breaks the "mill glaze" on new wood
 - Concentrated formula (7:1 mix ratio)



COMPOSITE Deck Cleaner (0313)

- Ideal for cleaning composite or PVC decking, fencing and furniture.
- Removes dirt, grease, oil, and stains from algae, mold and mildew
 - Concentrated formula (16:1 mix ratio for maintenance, 8:1 mix ratio for first time cleaning)

Not all products are available in all areas. Please see your local Benjamin Moore® retailer for availability.

PREPARING ANY WOOD SURFACE

The most important step to ensure beautiful and long-lasting protection is proper surface preparation. Most finish failures are the result of improper preparation and application.

Clear your workspace by removing as many items as you can (planters, hoses, outdoor furniture, light fixtures). Cover other items (steps, plants, sidewalks, paths) with drop cloths.

Examine the deck, siding or furniture for surface wear, cracked boards and popped nails. Make any necessary repairs before you start your staining project. Stains require a clean, sound surface free of dirt, dust, grease, mildew, loose wood fibers, and mill glaze to ensure adequate penetration of the stain. Horizontal surfaces like decks and porches experience the most wear—foot traffic, furniture, sitting snow and ice—which is why they require maximum surface preparation and maintenance.

TIMING

The best time to stain is when temperatures are moderate (between 50°F/10°C and 90°F/32.2°C), humidity is low to average and no rain is in the forecast. Ideally, you should start exterior projects after three or four consecutive dry days. If possible, complete your project within one week of surface preparation.

TOOLS

Benjamin Moore offers a complete line of brushes and rollers designed to produce top-quality stain projects every time. Alkyd or oil-based stains should be applied with natural-bristle brushes. Synthetic-bristle brushes are ideal for latex stains. Ask your Benjamin Moore® retailer for advice on the right application methods and products for your project.

- Brushes or pad applicators
- Drop cloths
- Gloves
- Hose or power washer
- Paint scraper
- Painters' tape
- Rags
- Rollers and roller covers
- Sandpaper
- Sanding or grinding machine
- Sprayer
- Stain mitt
- Stiff bristle and wire brushes

NEW OR UNFINISHED WOOD

Mill glaze is commonly found on new, smooth, planed wood and interferes with the adhesion and penetration of stain. Remove mill glaze by using **Benjamin Moore BRIGHTEN Brightener & Neutralizer (0317)** or by sanding with 80-grit sandpaper. When using BRIGHTEN, allow proper dry time (approximately 48 hours). When sanding, sand in the direction of the wood grain and remove all dust.

Next, use **Benjamin Moore CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)** to prepare unfinished wood for staining. It removes dirt as well as stains from mold and mildew.

WORN, WEATHERED WOOD

First use **Benjamin Moore RESTORE Wood Restorer (N316)** with a stiff bristle brush to clean dirt, grease, dead wood fibers and to remove stains from mold and mildew. Keep in mind that RESTORE darkens tannin-rich woods such as cedar and redwood. Follow with **Benjamin Moore BRIGHTEN Brightener & Neutralizer (0317)** to reverse that darkening effect. Finish by sanding with the grain with 80-grit sandpaper once the wood is dry, and remove all dust.

PREVIOUSLY COATED WOOD

In addition to cleaning dirt, and removing stains from mold and mildew with RESTORE (as you would for any worn, weathered deck), also use **Benjamin Moore REMOVE Finish Remover (0315)** to remove existing oil or latex stains, or opaque solid color stains and water sealers, especially any previous coat that is flaking or peeling.



(0317)



(N318)



(N316)



(0315)

Use **Benjamin Moore BRIGHTEN Brightener & Neutralizer (0317)** followed by sanding with 80-grit sandpaper to neutralize REMOVE residue.

If the previous coat is in good condition (no evident flaking or peeling), use **Benjamin Moore® CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)**, as directed on the label, to remove dirt and mildew stains.

TANNIN-RICH WOODS (CEDAR, REDWOOD)

Use **ARBORCOAT® Exterior Oil Primer (0366)** to help control tannin bleeding when using solid color stains, particularly under lighter colors.

GRINDING AND SANDING MACHINES

Grinding or sanding machines can help restore old, weathered decks or remove old finishes. Machines like the Onfloor 16™ machine can help you prepare your surface quickly, allowing you to stain the same day.

FINAL PREPARATION

The wood must be thoroughly dry, with a moisture content below 15%. Ask your Benjamin Moore retailer for information on moisture meters.

Perform a water bead test to ensure that the wood is ready to be stained. Sprinkle a few drops of water on various areas of the deck surface. If the water beads, allow time for further weathering, sand the wood or clean using **Benjamin Moore® CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)**. If the wood absorbs the water, it's time to stain.

STAINING YOUR DECK

STEP 1

Read all product labels carefully, follow all instructions closely and ensure you prepare your deck according to the **Preparation** section.

STEP 2

After properly preparing the wood, select an inconspicuous place on the deck to test your stain selection and preview the final color results.

STEP 3

Once you are happy with your color selection, begin by staining the vertical sections of the deck such as the rails and posts first to prevent drips and spatters from landing on previously finished areas.

STEP 4

Once vertical surfaces are complete, proceed to the deck surface. For deck boards, work two or three boards at a time and avoid stopping in the middle of a board to avoid developing lap marks.



DECK STAINING TIPS

- To ensure proper stain penetration and even drying results, avoid applying stain in direct sunlight.
- If you must apply low-VOC latex stains in direct sunlight, use **Benjamin Moore® Extender (0518)** to help maintain a wet edge.
- Don't let stain puddle on the surface of the deck. Use a brush to work the stain into the wood.
- If you roll or spray, always back-brush.
- Stir the stain frequently during application to maintain color uniformity.



STAINING YOUR SIDING

STEP 1

Read all product labels carefully, follow all instructions closely and ensure you prepare your siding according to the **Preparation** section.

STEP 2

After properly preparing the siding, select an inconspicuous place on the siding to test your stain selection and preview the final color results.

STEP 3

Once you are happy with your color selection, begin by staining from the top down to prevent drips and spatters from landing on previously finished areas.

STEP 4

Plan to stain sections in the following order:

1. Windows 2. Eaves 3. Fascia 4. Body 5. Trim
6. Doors 7. Garage

STEP 5

When staining windows, stain the sash and recessed parts of the window frame first, then stain the frame and windowsill last.

STEP 6

Apply stain in the direction of the grain of the wood. Work vertically when staining shingles and side-to-side when staining clapboard. Minimize lapping by coating three to five boards across the length of the house until you reach a natural breakpoint, such as a door or window.

SIDING STAINING TIPS

- To ensure proper stain penetration and even drying results, avoid applying stain in direct sunlight.
- If you must apply low-VOC latex stains in direct sunlight, use **Benjamin Moore® Extender (0518)** to help maintain a wet edge.
- Pre-primed wood siding should be finished within a month of installation or it will have to be primed again. For best results, consider coating even pre-primed surfaces with **ARBORCOAT® Exterior Oil Primer (0366)**.
- Stir the stain frequently during application to maintain color uniformity.
- Rough surfaces hold more color than smooth surfaces.
- If the siding was previously finished with a solid color stain, we recommend a coat of primer followed by a latex topcoat. A coat of primer is also effective if you wish to change the stain from a dark to a lighter color or if there is tannin staining from redwood or cedar.
- If the surface was coated with a transparent or semi-transparent finish, you can continue with the same type or use a solid color. Do not, however, use transparent or semi-transparent products over solid color stains unless you remove the previous finish first.
- If you are installing or replacing fence posts, coat the bottom of the posts with **ARBORCOAT® Exterior Oil Primer (0366)**. It will protect against ground moisture and help extend the life of the posts.



STAINING YOUR FURNITURE

STEP 1

Read all product labels carefully, follow all instructions closely and ensure you prepare your furniture according to the **Preparation** section.

STEP 2

After properly preparing your furniture (and letting it dry completely), select an inconspicuous place on the furniture to test your stain selection and preview the final color results.

STEP 3

Once you are happy with your color selection, begin working on the underside of the furniture, making sure you coat the ends of table and chair legs. This will ensure the best protection possible. Use a brush for maximum penetration. If you use a roller or spray, make sure to back-brush to achieve an even finish. Continue on the topsides of the furniture using the same methods.

STEP 4

Allow the stain to fully dry per the label directions before returning the furniture to service.



FURNITURE STAINING TIPS

- To ensure proper stain penetration and even drying results, avoid applying stain in direct sunlight.
- If you must apply low-VOC latex stains in direct sunlight, use **Benjamin Moore® Extender (0518)** to help maintain a wet edge.
- Find a clear area to stain your furniture and cover the space with drop cloths.
- Chances are you will be working in tight spaces, so be careful to avoid skin contact with your finish remover or paint stripper.
- Stir the stain frequently during application to maintain color uniformity.

MAINTAINING YOUR FINISH

No matter the surface, examine your finish at least once a year to evaluate any necessary maintenance. Remember, maintenance is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Use **Benjamin Moore CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)** to keep stained surfaces clean as well as to prepare them for regular maintenance touch-ups.

Attend to weathered, worn or mildewed areas by cleaning, sanding and refinishing them before larger problems occur. A light maintenance coat of stain every year or two on surfaces in sound condition—particularly horizontal surfaces—will keep them protected for years to come.



MAINTAINING YOUR DECK

Decks are often subjected to extreme conditions—even more so than siding or outdoor furniture. Decks are baked in the sun, buried under snow, pelted by rain and pounded by foot traffic. To help add longevity to its finish, your deck requires regular evaluation and maintenance.

Keep your deck looking great by regularly sweeping or air-blowing away leaves, twigs, pollen dust and standing water. Each spring, clean it with **Benjamin Moore® CLEAN Multi-Purpose Cleaner (N318)**. These steps will help prevent staining and assure there is no breeding ground for mold or mildew. If mildew appears, use CLEAN to remove mildew stains, followed by light power washing.

Avoid excessive moisture by not placing flowerpots or large objects directly on the deck. Do not allow downspouts or gutters to drain directly onto the deck. Consider replacing warped boards that cup or cradle standing water.

Avoid pulling or dragging sharp, heavy objects across your deck to avoid scratching or gouging, and address and repair scratches and gouges immediately.

Plan to recoat a Translucent or Semi-Transparent finish every 12-24 months and a Solid finish every 24-36 months, depending on climate, traffic and proper stain preparation. Protected areas will not weather as quickly as others. When recoating, those areas may become darker or have a slightly higher sheen.

For more expert staining advice, visit your local
Benjamin Moore® Retailer or benjaminmoore.com.



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