

Application Guide

Strip & Brite is a TWO-STEP SYSTEM for cleaning and stripping outdoor wood. STEP ONE is a thin pink gel (potassium hydroxide) that breaks down failed oil finishes and severe discoloration from UV damage. STEP TWO is a crystalline powder (citric acid) that is mixed with water and used to brighten the wood and neutralize the stripping process. These are water based chemicals and will not harm plants when used according to directions, but actual chemical contact with plant leaves could burn the leaves. BOTH STEPS MUST BE COMPLETED TO ENSURE BIODEGRADABILITY. Use the Strip & Brite TWO-STEP SYSTEM to restore wood and prepare it for refinishing with Timber Pro UV Wood Finishes.

COVERAGE: Stripper solution should be applied at a rate of 1 gallon to every 75-100 sq ft of wood surface. Coverage per gallon is determined by dilution ratio. Do not skimp on product - this could necessitate a second application.

PERFORM A TEST PATCH TO DETERMINE DILUTION RATIO: Most use stripper full strength from the bucket on siding because the thicker solution clings better to vertical walls. If the original finish on your siding, deck, or fence has mostly worn away, a diluted version may be just as effective. Perform a test patch, one with full strength solution and another patch with the gel diluted 50% with water. Pick an area where the discoloration is the worst or where the previous stain is still the most intact such as under eaves. Leave on for at least 30-40 minutes then scrub both patches, rinse well and then apply Step 2 blonder, wait 20 minutes and rinse again. Once the wood is dry you will be able to visually determine which dilution is necessary. If the old stain is still intact you may need to leave stripper on much longer than 40 minutes. If that still doesn't produce the desired results, it's possible the existing stain was acrylic or latex which does not break down with stripper. Liquid samples available from Timber Pro for testing purposes.

APPLICATION, STEP ONE (Stripper): Mask off all non-wood surfaces not requiring stripping. Stripper may etch glass. Cover nearby plants, solution may burn the leaves but rinse residue does not kill surrounding vegetation. High volumes of water however needed to rinse stripper and neutralizer may "drown" smaller plants. Work in manageable size areas, such as 200 sq ft at a time. Mist the wood lightly with plain water to slightly dampen surface. Apply solution liberally with roller, brush, or sprayer (only diluted stripper will go through pump sprayer) at rate of one gallon to every 100 sq ft. If stripping a vertical wall, start applying solution at bottom and work up - very important! This will eliminate lighter colored drip streaks where solution ran down onto dry wood. Apply liberally and evenly to discolored wood surface. Let gel sit on wood for 30-45 minutes. For heavy buildup of old stain, use undiluted gel and leave it on as long as needed to break it down, sometimes a few hours. If the gel begins to dry during the process, lightly mist with more diluted stripper to re-activate but don't wet it so much it starts to drip down the wall. Strip & Brite gel must always remain damp or the process will fail. For best results, agitate with a brush - then power wash (under 1500 psi) wood to remove gel. When power-washing or rinsing siding, always start at top of wall and work downwards. On log homes, be aware some water may travel through logs to the interior of the home. Keep large towels handy to catch water that migrates to interior. You may choose to agitate with a stiff brush and rinse with a strong hose spray in place of pressure washing. RINSE SOLUTION WELL PRIOR TO STEP TWO. Newly cleaned wood will still appear dark until STEP TWO is completed. You may wait a day or two to perform Step 2 neutralizer if needed. NOTE: If stripper gel comes in contact with wood previously stripped and brightened, the stripper will turn the wood dark again and will need to be rinsed and re-blonded with the Step 2 neutralizer.

APPLICATION, STEP TWO (Neutralizer-Blonder): Crystalline powder (step 2) should be dissolved in 1.5 gallons of warm water per 12 ounces before use. Apply dissolved crystal solution to wood with a low-pressure sprayer (20-30 psi), roller, brush or paint pad. On siding, start application at top of wall and work downward. Let it sit on the wood for a minimum of 15-30 minutes. RINSE WELL WITH WATER. Cleaning process may cause surface fibers to fuzz. While still wet, scrub with stiff brush in direction of the grain to remove fuzzing or, if this is not sufficient, remove fuzz by sanding (with 60-80 grit) once wood is dry. Allow wood to dry completely to determine effectiveness. Wood should be returned to near its natural color. Stubborn discoloration or thick stain buildup may require a second application of Strip & Brite. If you are stretching the pink gel in step 1 you may need to purchase additional packages of the blonder.

EFFECTIVENESS: Strip & Brite is very effective at removing discoloration that is not an integral part of the wood. Any stubborn stain that has permeated the wood such as blue stain on pine (a type of fungus) will not be removed by Strip & Brite as this type of discoloration goes completely through the wood, sometimes 2-6" deep. Blue stain appears as blue or dark gray streaks on a variety of soft wood species. It is not designed to remove acrylic stains, latex paint, polyurethane, or silicone coatings but has been known to do so. Test first to determine if it affects these types of coatings.

CLEANUP: Rinse all solutions and containers well with water. Strip & Brite gel from Step 1 may be used to clean dried Timber Pro stain off of tools or vinyl trim and siding. Test first in inconspicuous area to make sure does not harm or discolor the surface behind the stain. Keep stripper away from metal or anodized aluminum windows and doors.

WARNING: Do not allow contact with skin or eyes. If contact occurs, rinse well with cool water. If stripper comes in contact with skin the citric acid rinse in step 2 will neutralize the stripper more quickly than water. Keep stripper and neutralizer off of surfaces not requiring stripping. Stripper will tarnish metal surfaces and could cloud or etch window glass.