

## Finishes for Ironwood® Outdoor Treated Pine

### Paints

Paints provide the most protection against weathering, but also hide the grain and much of the timbers surface texture and features. To achieve maximum paint life, treatment with a water repellent preservative prior to priming and painting is highly recommended. Paint suppliers and manufacturers will have and be able to supply details for their products. Other points to consider are:

- Acrylics are more durable and flexible and have a shorter recoating time.
- Acrylics usually only require two coats maximum.
- LOSP Treated pine will require a coat of oil based primer before using an acrylic paint.
- Oil based paints tend to have a better surface penetration and adhesion characteristics.

### Stains (heavy bodied)

Heavy bodied stains are a flat stain with an opaque finish. This finish tends to hide the timbers grain but still show the surface texture and features. Other points to consider are:

- Oil based stains are generally more penetrating.
- Heavy pigmentation means superior protection against the sun.
- Two coats will generally do the trick.
- The finish will depend heavily on on your skill and technique in the application.

### Stains (light bodied)

Light bodied stains are lightly pigmented and have a penetrating finish which allow both the grain and the surface texture to be seen. Other points to consider are:

- Oil and water based stains are available.
- Oil based stains penetrate more deeply and usually contain a water repellent preservative.
- Two coats will generally do the trick.
- Provide less protection than heavy bodied stains and will require more frequent maintenance.

### Water repellent

Water repellent preservatives are usually clear and can be used as either the finishing coat or as a preparation coat prior to painting or staining. If used alone it will require more frequent recoating. After several coats have been applied over a period of time, the interval between recoats will become longer as the coating builds up.

### Clear finishes

Clear finishes such as varnishes and similar products should not be used on outdoor softwoods. Sunlight plays havoc and will very quickly discolour and degrade the timber beneath and the film will crack and let the moisture in. If you decide to use a clear finish then be prepared to recoat it frequently.

### Refinishing

Refinishing is just a fancy word for recoating. To fix cracked, peeling and blistered paintwork is one hell of a job, so repaint before it goes that far. Acrylic paints tend to be more forgiving and do not crack as readily as oil based paints after a long term of neglect.

Stains and water repellents will only need to be dusted or hosed off before recoating.