



# To Stain or not to Stain?

## 1. Why should I treat my timber product now?

### \* PRESERVE

If your timber hasn't been pressure-treated it could be susceptible to rot and fungi so may need a preventative **Wood Preserver**. We would recommend that Protek Wood Preserver be used for joinery and premium softwood products.

### \* PROTECT

If timber is pre-treated, most decorative treatments will expire after 6-12 months and many of these pre-treatments offer little or no protection against the weather. Your timber will be vulnerable to decay and damage caused by exposure to rain and the elements. Even pressure-treated timber is not water-proof; a **weather-proofing/water-repellent** top coat is required to fully **protect** timber.

### \* COLOUR

You may want to colour match new timber products to existing structures in the garden or simply give your timber some colour to create a beautiful garden. If you want to **colour** your timber product it's easiest to do it straight away when it is new as it will be clean and easy to

## 2. How long should I leave pressure-treated timber to weather for?

Advice will vary according to the timber product and manufacturing + treatment processes. Below is a rough guide but do refer to manufacturer's instructions.

- \* If your timbers have been freshly pressure treated the industry recommend that it is left to weather and settle down for 2-3 months before applying a **paint** product. This is for 2 reasons;
  - (i) there may be salt residue from the preservation chemical on the surface of the timber that needs to come off. If you apply a coating on top of these salts the coating won't be able to adhere fully to the timber and when the salts come off, they could take the coating off as well. You could help speed up this process by rinsing off the surfaces then allowing them to dry.
  - (ii) depending on what preservation chemicals have been used, there may be waxes that need to weather off as they may block new coatings from adhering fully to the timber. Again this could be speeded up by washing surfaces with water and detergent. You can check with the manufacturer to see whether the preservative used on the timber has wax additives.
- \* With micro-porous **wood stains** such as Protek's you can apply them earlier than the recommended 2-3 months as long as the timber has dried out. This allows you to provide water-proofing protection, which is especially important on timber buildings. It is **essential** to firstly remove any surface dirt and residues left over from pressure-treatment chemicals.
- \* Applying wood stains to fresh timber can result in resin bleed and tannins staining the coating. Fresh resin can still be bleeding out of the timber and could push the coating out and off from the surface. This is easily prevented by applying a knotting agent or stain-blocking primer prior to applying a wood stain. Alternatively any resin bleed or staining can be easily rectified at a 12 month maintenance session by just lightly sanding off the expelled resin plus loose and stained coating, then applying a fresh coat.

## 3. Why should I treat my timber product with Protek?

- \* Protek's woodstains are **perfect for use around children, birds, animals and plants, good quality, great value for money** compared to other high-street brands and available in an extensive range of modern and heritage **colours**.
- \* Historically Protek has been an industrial supplier to manufacturers of timber products but over the last few years their retail range has become incredibly popular and is becoming a household name. Since 2012 their wood stains have been used on ITV1's high-profile gardening series, "**Love Your Garden**" with **Alan Titchmarsh** and **David Domoney**. Protek woodstains have also featured in show gardens at the **Ideal Home Shows** "**Ideal Young Gardener's**" competition from 2013 and can be regularly spotted in magazines such as **Garden Answers, Country Homes and Interiors, Woman and Home, House Beautiful, Period Ideas, Your Home** and **Period Homes**.
- \* Protek is a **UK independent manufacturer** of quality wood stains that are low in odour and VOC. They are a family run business that have been specialising in the creation and manufacture of **environmentally considerate water-based** woodstains since mid 1980s. Being water-based also makes them easy to clean-up with just water and a spot of detergent.

