

Clear Finishes *(Continued from front)*

EPA approved fungicide and registration, the “Wood Preserving” terminology is not allowed on the product’s label or literature. However, they offer the wood no protection from the sun’s ultraviolet rays, resulting in the wood turning a yellow-gray, and then black. In addition, wood-preserving clears do not contain any resins. Thus, the small amount of wax in the product quickly breaks down, and the water-beading properties vanish. The life expectancy of these products can range from 6 months -

CATEGORY	RESIN	WAX	U.V. RESISTANT	LIFE EXPECTANCY	PRODUCT EXAMPLES
WATER PROOFING SEALERS	VERY LITTLE	LARGE AMOUNT	NO	6 MONTHS - 1 YEAR (ON DECKS) 1-2 YEARS (ON SIDING)	• THOMPSON'S WATER SEAL • CUPRINOL CLEAR WOOD SEAL • CABOT DECKING CLARIFLOID
WOOD PRESERVING CLEARS	NO	SMALL AMOUNT	NO	6 MONTHS - 1 YEAR	• BENJAMIN MOORE 088 • OLYMPIC CLEAR WOOD PRESERVATIVE • CUPRINOL #20
U.V. RESISTANT CLEARS	YES	SMALL AMOUNT	YES	1-2 YEARS (ON DECKS) 2-4 YEARS (ON SIDING)	• FLOOD'S CWF-U.V. • OKONASTURA CHOICE • CABOT CLEAR SOLUTION

1 year. Wood Preserving Clears are becoming scarce in today’s marketplace for several reasons: The government has placed restrictions on some of the most commonly used fungicides used in this category of clears, and at the same time the reduction of these fungicides has left these clear products less effective. Also, the cost of the fungicides has caused manufacturers to take a closer look at the formulations. More recently, the widespread availability and use of pressure-treated wood has also had a negative effect on the popularity of Wood Preserving Clears. Wood Preservatives still on the market include Benjamin Moore 088 and Olympic Clear Wood Preservative. Increased regulations on the use of fungicides will contribute to the decline of products in this category.

U.V. Resistant Clears

U.V.-Resistant Clears are not truly clear, but rather products that impart a slight amber color or tone. To achieve this slight amber cast and afford the wood some protection from the sun’s U.V. rays, manufacturers will use everything from heavy dark neutral oils to transoxide pigments. Transoxide pigments are translucent and highlight the grain and texture of the wood. Because there is pigment in the product, the wood is receiving protection from the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Transoxide pigments are also versatile, finding success not only in traditional product formulas, but also in VOC-compliant formulas. The life expectancy of U.V.-Resistant Clears can range from 1-2 years on horizontal surfaces (decks), to 2-4 years on vertical surfaces. Cabot’s high-penetrating Clear Solution® and Australian Timber Oil® provides a durable finish for both decks and siding. By penetrating deeply into the wood, Cabot Clear Solution and Australian Timber Oil provide increased protection to not only the wood surface, but also the underlying wood fibers.

Matching the aesthetic desires of the homeowner with the protective requirements of the wood is a delicate balancing act. By having a clear understanding of the customer’s needs and by careful explanation of the benefits and limitations of the various clears, customer expectations will be satisfied.



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