

Deck and Fence Maintenance Do's And Don'ts

Here is list of wood deck and fence maintenance do's and don'ts:

- Do conduct a simple "water test" on a new piece of wood. If drops of water bead up, don't do anything. If they get absorbed into the wood, apply your treatment of deck/fence sealer.
- Don't use siding maintenance products on wood decks (they don't have the durability for foot-traffic).
- Don't be misled thinking pressure-treated wood doesn't require maintenance; it may not need protection from rotting, but it does need to be cleaned, stained or sealed to prevent splitting, drying, cracking and graying.
- Don't think paint will work better than stain. Stains don't require as much surface preparation, and the fading of stain is less noticeable than the cracking and peeling of paint.
- Do wash with special deck/fence cleaners as needed (usually once a year) to remove mildew and dirt. Deck/Fence cleaners also enhance the natural wood tone. Use either a liquid deck/fence cleaner or a more environmentally friendly, biodegradable wood deck/fence maintenance product.