



Quick Guide: Restaining Natural Wood

Periodic maintenance helps preserve the appearance and long-term performance of your Montana Timber Products materials. Maintenance needs vary based on exposure, climate, surface condition, and desired appearance. South- and west-facing elevations typically weather faster than north- and east-facing elevations.

1. Inspect the Siding

Before beginning, inspect the siding for:

- Dirt, pollen, mildew, graying, or surface discoloration
- Areas of fading or heavier weathering
- Damaged caulking, flashing, or other sources of excess moisture or water intrusion

Correct any building or moisture-related issues before restaining.

2. Clean & Prepare

The siding must be clean and free of contaminants before restaining.

For routine maintenance where the existing finish is sound, wash the siding thoroughly to remove dirt and surface contaminants. A mild detergent may be appropriate for routine cleaning.

For siding with heavier dirt, mildew, staining, or weathering, [Seal-Once® Multi-Surface/All Wood Cleaner](#) may be used according to the product instructions.

[Seal-Once® All Wood Brightener](#) may also be used when additional preparation is desired, particularly on weathered, grayed, or discolored wood. It can help rejuvenate the wood and provide a more uniform surface before restaining.

Allow the siding to dry thoroughly after cleaning. Depending on weather and humidity, this will typically require **24–48 hours (1–2 dry days)**.



3. Prepare the Stain

- **Do not thin with water or other solvents.**
- Stir thoroughly before use and **continue stirring periodically during application** to keep pigments evenly distributed.
- When using multiple containers of the same color, mix them together when practical to help maintain color consistency across the project.

4. ALWAYS Test the Color First

Apply the stain to a **small, inconspicuous area** of the actual siding and allow it to dry before proceeding. Weathered siding may take the original color differently and appear darker or more saturated.

If a lighter appearance is desired, the pigmented stain may be blended with **Clear Seal-Once**. This is color blending—not thinning. Test a small batch first and maintain the same blend ratio throughout the project.

Do not proceed until you are satisfied with the test color.

5. Apply the Stain

Apply with a brush, stain pad, pump sprayer, or appropriate spray equipment. When spraying, lightly **back-brush as needed to promote even penetration**. Avoid excessive brushing or overworking the finish.

Two Coats Recommended

For best penetration and protection, **two coats are recommended**. Apply the second coat after the first coat has penetrated but while the surface is still damp. The second coat must be applied **within one hour of the first coat**.



Considering One Coat?

Some homeowners may prefer the lighter, more transparent appearance produced by a single maintenance coat. **One coat may be considered for aesthetic reasons; however, it will not provide the same level of protection as the recommended two-coat application.**

Remember that additional pigment generally creates a richer color and greater opacity. Always use your test area to determine the appearance you prefer before proceeding.

Coverage & Application Conditions

Estimated coverage: Plan on approximately **200 sq. ft. per gallon** for estimating purposes. Actual coverage will vary based on wood species, texture, porosity, weathering, and the amount of product the wood accepts.

Apply when:

- Air and surface temperatures are between **45°F and 95°F**
- Rain is not expected for **12–24 hours**
- Whenever possible, work in the shade and avoid hot, direct sunlight.

Storing Leftover Stain

Properly stored stain can be retained for future maintenance or touch-ups.

- **Protect stain from freezing. Store above 32°F (0°C) at all times.**
- Do not store over winter in an unheated garage, shed, vehicle, or other location where the product could freeze.
- Keep the container tightly sealed and store in a cool, dry, temperature-controlled location.
- Before reusing stored stain, stir thoroughly and inspect it for unusual changes in consistency.
- Always perform another **test application in an inconspicuous area** before using stored stain.
- Unopened Seal-Once® NANO has a published shelf life of **3 years when properly stored.**