

Technical Data Sheet #2

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This document supersedes all previous versions

Painting LOSP treated timber products

What is LOSP treated timber?

LOSP stands for Light Organic Solvent Preservative and describes the carrier used to carry the preservation actives into the wood structure.

The solvent used in LOSP can vary and includes low-odour formulations. After the wood product is treated it releases the solvent leaving the treatment actives behind in the wood structure and because LOSP treatment has minimal effect on wood dimension, it is often used for products such as fascias as well as engineered products such as plywood, LVL and glue-laminated products. It is also used for external framing products which will be used for deck structures, pergolas and similar.

All externally used LOSP treated wood products are treated to H3 level so that they are suitable for outside above ground use only and they should only be used where the wood product experiences a maximum of periodic wetting only. They should only be used in contact with the ground or near ground contact.

Before you paint - do you need to reseal the LOSP?

It is recommended and a condition of the Koppers Guarantee that LOSP treated timber is resealed with a remedial preservative when it is cut, drilled or notched etc, to ensure that the treatment is maintained at the exposed surfaces even if they are tightly joined following cutting.

Recommended reseal product is Protim Solignum XJ or equivalent which is available from hardware retailers. The timber should be resealed and allowed to dry before application of the primer and top coat system.

H3 structural timber and other non pre-primed products

LOSP treated products release the carrier solvent after treatment, so it is essential before application of a paint system that an adequate period of release or "flash-off" occurs. The period of time can vary according to the time since treatment, how the product is wrapped and stored and of course weather conditions amongst other factors. An odour is not a reliable guide as this varies with the formulation.

It is therefore recommended that on receipt of LOSP treated timber, any wrapping should be removed and the timber separated and placed in a weather protected situation for a minimum of 7 days before priming.

Alternatively, the timber may be erected into the structure and primer applied after a minimum of 7 days after construction. If in doubt, test the primer on a small section of timber and ensure the paint dries and adheres satisfactorily.

Don't forget to reseal before the application of the paint system.

Paint system

The timber product should be primed with an oil-based (alkyd) primer then after a suitable drying period may be painted with an oil-based or acrylic/water based paint system. A water-based primer may be able to be used, however, the paint manufacturer should be consulted.

Always refer to the paint manufacturers' instructions.

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Pre-primed products

Many LOSP treated wood products such as fascias and handrails, are factory pre-primed with an opaque primer so that the product has temporary protection before it is installed in the project. These primers can provide a base for the subsequent paint system, however, the primer should be examined to ensure it is sound before applying the top coat system.

The primer is not meant to be a final weather proof finish so that if it is left for extended periods in the weather before it is erected into the project or if it is left in the weather after erection, then it should be checked for soundness before applying the top coat system. If the primer is not sound it should be sanded off and a new primer and top coat system applied.

If the primer is sound then an oil-based (alkyd) or water-based top coat system may be applied.

Resin bleed

Resin bleeding can occasionally be a problem with LOSP treated softwoods. Resin occurs naturally in softwoods and can be identified as a sticky, clear or coloured substance that has a characteristic aromatic odour.

It is most commonly encountered around knots or other imperfections in the wood. Paint or stain finishes will generally be softened and may even be lifted off by a resin bleed.

If resin bleed occurs, the following steps are recommended:

- Physically remove the resin from the surface with a paint scraper and wipe with methylated spirits.
- Allow to weather for a few days to ensure that the bleed has ceased or preferably longer.

The area can be finished with the selected finishing system noting that light coloured finishes are recommended.

If the resin bleed re-occurs the above procedure can be repeated. Shellac based sealers and primers may be helpful in sealing resin bleed, consult the paint manufacturer for further information.

Further information and other finishes

No matter what type of finish is applied, the advice regarding allowing flash-off of the LOSP treated timber should be followed.

- The presence of the solvent from the LOSP treatment may affect the drying and hardening of paints if there has been insufficient evaporation time after the treatment.
- If the first coat of primer, sealant paint or stain fails to dry or adhere or is sticky within the time expected and considering the prevailing weather conditions, do not proceed to any further coats until the first coat has achieved satisfactory dryness and adhesion.
- If the coat continues to be sticky etc, then it may be necessary to strip the first coat to bare timber and wait a further week or two depending on weather conditions.
- Light paint colours are recommended in preference to darker colours as lighter colours prevent excessive heat gain in the timber which can lead to cracking in the timber surface and accelerated deterioration of the paint system. In humid areas where mould may grow on the paint surface, the use of a mouldicide in the paint is strongly recommended.
- While this data sheet has been primarily concerned with opaque paint systems, oil and water based stains, penetrating oils and water repellent coatings may be successfully used after waiting the appropriate drying time. Consult the paint manufacturers' instructions.

Disclaimer

The recommendation and guidelines of this Data Sheet is based on current information and industry practices, and has been produced in good faith for the general guidance of consumers and trades people. No warranty or assurance can be given that these recommendations will suit every possible situation or particular circumstance.

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