



EXTERIOR WOOD STAIN

ABOUT READY SEAL

READY SEAL began as a Texas-based family-owned company. It was developed locally and has been the product of choice for professionals since 1992. What used to be available only to contractors in north Texas is now a mainstay for DIY'ers and professionals alike across the US and Canada. Today, READY SEAL is proud to be a part of the Rust-Oleum family and continues to be a unique standard-bearer in the exterior wood stain category.

READY SEAL Exterior Wood Stain is a genuine semi-transparent oil-based stain-and-sealer-in-one that penetrates deep into the wood fibers rather than sitting on the surface. It is a proprietary blend of natural resins, oils, and pigments (which provide the UV protection). There is **no linseed oil**, which is common in most other oil-based wood stains, and has been shown to promote algae and mildew growth.

READY SEAL is ideal for most outdoor wood projects including fences, decks, cedar siding, log homes, pergolas, gazebos, cabanas, pavilions, wooden garage doors, children's playsets, boat docks, and other outdoor wood structures. It is also safe to use indoors and is frequently used for interior projects including cabinets, floors & furniture.

READY SEAL can be used on most wood types, such as pine (regular and pressure-treated), cedar, tiger, cypress, redwood, walnut, cherry, hickory and oak, and even some exotics such as teak, ipê, massaranduba, cumara, and garapa (although there are some nuances with these exotic woods, so please contact our office at 972-434-2028 if you want additional information on these).

THE KEY TO SUCCESS with READY SEAL

READY SEAL is Goof Proof® - easy to apply and easy to maintain. But there are some basic guidelines that must be followed. The three steps to keep in mind:

1. **PREP**
2. **DRY**
3. **APPLY**

These 3 important steps, as well as other helpful tips, are detailed in the following pages.



PREP

WOOD PREP

STEP 1: It is imperative to properly prep the wood before staining. READY SEAL now offers a full line of prep products to get the best results with your wood staining projects- READYremove™ Wood Stripper, READYclean™ Wood Cleaner, and READYbright™ Wood Brightener.

Most wood projects fall within five main categories. Which category does your project fall into?

- **Brand new, rough-cut lumber:** no special prep needed other than ensuring the wood is dried out.
- **Brand new, smooth-milled lumber (such as deck boards or furniture):** there is an invisible mill glaze coating on this wood, which will inhibit the penetration of READY SEAL into the wood. This must be addressed before successful application. Apply READY SEAL's READYbright Wood Brightener according to the label instructions, then rinse well using a pressure washer (1000PSI or less), or a garden hose with a jet sprayer attached.
- **Wood that has been sanded:** READY SEAL is a penetrating product looking for open wood pores to fill, but sanding will take the wood down to a denser substrate and close the open pores, inhibiting the penetration of READY SEAL into the wood. It is not recommended to sand the wood, but if you have to, sand the entire surface uniformly using a 60- or 80-grit paper, and then treat the wood like brand new smooth-milled lumber (mentioned above). Apply READY SEAL's READYbright Wood Brightener according to the label instructions, then rinse well using a pressure washer (1000PSI or less), or a garden hose with a jet sprayer attached.
- **Older wood (more than a year old) with no previous product, but grey from age:** Apply READY SEAL's READYclean Wood Cleaner according to the label instructions to kill mold & mildew and remove the grey, adjusting the concentration strength as needed. Rinse well. Follow with READY SEAL's READYbright Wood Brightener according to the label instructions to neutralize the cleaner and restore the bleached wood to a more natural tone.
- **Older wood (more than a year old) with residual product (other than READY SEAL):** Wood must be bare the first time you apply READY SEAL. If there is another product on/in the wood (even a small amount), use READY SEAL's READYremove Wood Stripper, carefully following the label instructions, to remove the previous product, adjusting the concentration strength as needed. Follow with READY SEAL's READYbright Wood Brightener according to the label instructions to neutralize the chemical reaction of the stripper.
- **Older wood (more than a year old) with READY SEAL previously applied:** if you started with READY SEAL on clean bare wood before, maintenance is easy. Apply READY SEAL's READYclean Wood Cleaner according to the label instructions to kill mold & mildew and remove any grey tones that have naturally developed, adjusting the concentration strength as needed. Rinse well. Follow with READY SEAL's READYbright Wood Brightener according to the label instructions to neutralize the cleaner and brighten the pallet before applying READY SEAL again.



DRY

MOISTURE CONTENT

STEP 2: After completing the PREP work in Step 1, dry...dry...dry! Because READY SEAL is an oil-based stain, and oil and water do not mix, the most important, requirement for successful READY SEAL application is to **ensure the wood is completely dry**. This can NOT be definitively determined just by touching the wood or by simply allowing a certain number of hours, because different regions have higher humidity, colder temperatures, variable weather conditions, and/or the wood may be very porous and holding onto moisture longer than a denser wood.

Once the appropriate **WOOD PREP** protocol outlined above has been followed, then the critical thing that needs to happen next is to allow adequate dry time and check the moisture content of the wood. **BE PATIENT!** 12% moisture content or less is where you need to be, and READY SEAL recommends using a wood moisture meter to ascertain this measurement. A moisture meter can be purchased online at most paint, lumber, or hardware stores. They range in price from \$20-\$200 for the contractor-grade tools. The entry-level models will work fine for most customers. This is a wise investment, as this tool will be re-used every time you re-apply READY SEAL. This moisture content rule is true for the first application, as well as every future application. (note: high humidity areas may not be able to get down to 12%, so 14-15% is acceptable, but the wood may only take one coat at that moisture content level).

With a moisture meter, spot check several areas of the wood- especially corners, around knot holes, etc. Once you've prepped the wood and your structure is getting 12% or less moisture content readings on the moisture meter, then it is time to apply READY SEAL.

***Caution:** Applying READY SEAL on wood that is not dried as recommended may lead to the stain not penetrating into the wood, as it should, and it may remain on the surface, making it vulnerable to washing away if it rains, or drying on the surface and flaking/peeling off later. This is precisely what READY SEAL is designed NOT to do. But it only works as intended if these guidelines are followed.

(re)APPLY

STEP 3: It's time to stain!

RECOMMENDED APPLICATION TOOLS

READY SEAL can be applied with any tool you are comfortable with.

- Brush/Roller: any paint brush or standard paint rollers with any nap (3/8" nap is typical)
- Pump-Up Garden Sprayer: any mid-range or higher quality sprayer
- Airless Sprayer: any mid-range or higher quality sprayer; 40-60 PSI, 0.18-0.23 range and 211 or 213 spray tip recommended.

CLEAN-UP: tools can be cleaned with mineral spirits when finished.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS DO I NEED TO TAKE?

- If using a sprayer, do not use on a windy or breezy day, as overspray may inadvertently travel to nearby structures, vehicles, windows, stonework, or furniture, and it is difficult to remove if not caught early.
- Cover all nearby plants and vegetation with plastic drop cloth before applying READY SEAL to protect against drips and overspray. Be cautious of extreme heat- plastic dropcloths on hot summer days can burn and/or kill vegetation and plants.
- Prior to staining, carefully wet down any nearby concrete, stone or other surfaces (avoid getting water on the wood). Because oil is lighter than water, this gives a window of opportunity to address any spills, drips, or overspray, as the stain will "float" for a short time before penetrating into a porous surface.
- It is always recommended to protect skin and eyes when working with any chemical products.

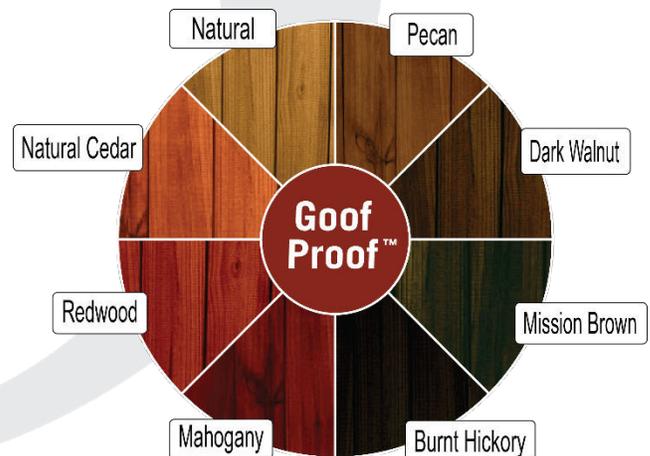
HOW MUCH STAIN DO I NEED?

Below is an estimate of product coverage.

<u>Wood Type</u>	<u>SqFt/Gal</u>
Spruce Fence	150
Cedar Siding	150
Cedar Fence	125
Cedar Siding (Rough)	125
Pine Fence	150
Pine Siding	170
Treated Pine Fence	150
Cedar Shingles	150
Treated Pine Deck	150
Cedar Deck	150

COLOR OPTIONS*

READY SEAL is available in the following 8 tones:



* Final tones will vary depending on the age of the wood, the type of the wood, and the texture of the wood. For example, Dark Walnut on rough-cut cedar will look different than Dark Walnut on smooth pressure-treated pine. READY SEAL offers liquid sample kits of the colors so you can test each color on a spare piece of wood for your specific project. Samples can be ordered [HERE](#), or your local paint or hardware store may have some on hand. In addition, visit our [PRODUCT GALLERY](#) to see more photos.

(re)APPLY

(cont'd)

ONE OR TWO COATS?

More is not always better. Over-application can cause issues. While READY SEAL is intended to be a two-coat application, and the representation of tones on our color wheel is indicative of two coats, because READY SEAL is not a paint or coating that covers the surface of the wood, but rather penetrates down into the wood pores, there are some projects where the wood simply will not take a second coat. ***This especially includes brand new, smooth-milled wood (such as deck boards or raw furniture), as well as some exotic hardwoods.*** Both of these wood categories are very dense, and it takes several years for dense wood to open up enough to take a second coat. If more stain is applied to the wood than what it is capable of absorbing, the excess that can not penetrate in will remain on top of the wood like a paint, it may take longer to dry, and it will be at risk of peeling and flaking off later.

Two Coat Verification Test Method

Not sure if your project will take two coats? Here is how you can tell:

After applying the 1st coat and allowing 1 hour to dry, then apply a few drops of READY SEAL in a few test areas. Let those drops sit undisturbed for 30 to 45 minutes, and then wipe your fingers or a paper towel across test areas. If you see nothing at all or just clear oil, the pigment has penetrated in and the wood is ready for a second coat. If you see color/pigment when you wipe at that spot, DO NOT apply another coat. You will need to wait a year or more for subsequent application.

MORE APPLICATION TIPS AND HINTS

- Mix, shake, and completely remove lids to stir product well before each use.
- Mix multiple containers together to ensure color consistency.
- Pour 5-gallon buckets with the spout at the 12 o'clock position (relative to the paint tray or sprayer canister) to avoid sloshing and spills
- Pour stain into sprayers or trays over grass or a tarp, not on driveways or concrete.
- Use cardboard or spray shields to help control overspray.
- Brush areas of fences or decks that are close to a house, garage, or other sensitive areas first. Brushing out a few feet allows for prevention of overspray on brick or siding.
- Always keep a gallon of paint thinner or mineral spirits close by to clean any spills immediately.
- Do not use a sprayer on a windy day, as overspray may travel where you don't want it to go.
- When spraying fences, use a 3- or 4-foot wide roll of construction paper and lay sections of it right up to or under the base of the fence to protect the lawn underneath from drips.
- If overapplication occurs and the excess product is not penetrating in, spray mineral spirits on the surface of the wood and use old rags to mop up excess stain that is not absorbing in.



THE 5 REASONS READY SEAL WON'T PENETRATE INTO THE WOOD:

- Moisture content is too high (see the DRY section)
- Mill glaze on the wood (see the 2nd bullet point in the PREP section)
- Another previously applied product is still on the wood (see the 5th bullet point in the PREP section)
- Wood has been sanded, closing the wood pores (see the 3rd bullet point in the PREP section)
- Overapplication – applying more product than what the wood is capable of absorbing (see the MORE APPLICATION TIPS section)

READY SEAL PRODUCT WARRANTY

READY SEAL warrants the quality of the contents of the container, so if it is determined that there is a defect in the product itself, replacement product or refund of purchase price (with proof of purchase) will be provided at READY SEAL's discretion. Labor costs are not covered by this warranty.

READY SEAL does not guarantee the length of time the product will last, as there are a variety of factors that can affect that, including the age and type of wood, the weather, the color that is used (darker tones last longer than lighter), and wood prep/application protocols. We do, however, estimate that in most cases, READY SEAL will provide protection:

- 1-3 years for horizontal surfaces (like a deck or dock)
- 2-5 years for vertical surfaces (like a fence or pergola)

In addition, no guarantee of results is offered, expressed, or implied. READY SEAL has no control over the surface preparation of the wood and/or application techniques, which is imperative to the success and longevity on the structure, so we encourage customers to read through this document completely to ensure they are following all manufacturer recommendations, and call our office if they have questions.



FAQs

Can I stain today if it's supposed to rain tomorrow? As long as the PREP and DRY rules outlined above are followed, you can stain today, and it can rain within hours and the READY SEAL will not wash away.

Should I sand the wood before I apply READY SEAL? It is not recommended to sand the wood before application. READY SEAL is a penetrating stain that absorbs down into the wood pores. Sanding closes those wood pores, meaning the product can't get into the wood. If you sand the wood, use READYbright Wood Brightener to re-open the pores, and once the wood dries, be aware that you will likely only get one light coat of READY SEAL to go in. You can follow the Two Coat Verification Test Method above to see if it will take a second coat.

Where can I buy READY SEAL? READY SEAL is only sold through our distributors, and you can see if there are any in your area at <https://www.readyseal.com/find-a-store/>. If there is no one in your area, you can order online from various paint and hardware retailers for shipment to your home. You can also call our office if you need help finding a source. 1-888-782-4648

Can I use READY SEAL on a log home? Yes- absolutely! Many customers have been very pleased with READY SEAL on their log homes. Please call our office for specific guidance on this particular application, as there are some nuances to the wood prep.

How long does READY SEAL take to dry? And when can I walk on it? You can walk on the deck while you are staining- it absorbs into the wood, self-levels, and there is no risk of leaving footprints on it. But you may get product on your shoes, so don't track it into your home or onto the surrounding concrete/stone. If the Wood Prep and Moisture Content protocols outlined above are followed, the wood will dry quickly (within hours), and you can replace furniture right away, but wait a couple days before adding any textiles (rugs, pillows, etc). Once it is dry, it will take up to 14 days to fully cure and reach its final tone.

My deck still looks wet and oily after it was stained 3 days ago, what should I do? This may indicate that the wood is saturated, and it has absorbed all the product that it can. In this case, you can take a rag with some mineral spirits on it and wipe down the surface. This will absorb up any excess oils and pigment, but will not affect the product that has absorbed into the wood.

Can I use READY SEAL on interior projects? Yes! Please call our office to get information on your specific application, and we are happy to provide guidance.

How do I clean my brush/roller/sprayer after I finish application? Mineral spirits or paint thinner will clean your equipment and tools.

Where can I see photos of READY SEAL on actual projects? Visit our online photo gallery [HERE](#).



**BEAUTIFUL RESULTS OF A CUSTOMER IN NEW YORK WHO FOLLOWED
READY SEAL'S RECOMMENDED STRIPPING PROTOCOL**



BEFORE



AFTER

