



# Maintenance Application Instructions

## ABOUT READY SEAL

READY SEAL is 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. Over the years, other companies have tried to reverse engineer the product to develop their own similar versions, but the original READY SEAL formula continues to be the unique standard-bearer.

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 888-782-4648 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 when re-applying READY SEAL after it has endured weathering months and/or years after its initial application:

1. **Clean**
2. **Dry**
3. **Re-Apply**

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



# 1. Clean

## CLEAN THE WOOD

STEP 1: It is imperative to properly clean the wood before re-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. See our website for more details.

**If you started with READY SEAL on clean bare wood before, maintenance is easy.** Apply READY SEAL's **READYclean** Wood Cleaner or other comparable wood cleaner according to the label instructions to manage and/or kill mold and mildew, remove dirt and any grey tones that have naturally developed, adjusting the concentration strength as needed. Rinse well. Follow with READY SEAL's **READYbright** Wood Brightener or other comparable wood brightener according to the label instructions to neutralize the cleaner and brighten the pallet before applying READY SEAL again.

## 2. 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 or re-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 **CLEAN** protocol outlined above has been followed, then the critical thing that needs to happen next is to allow adequate dry time. Be sure to 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 acceptable to apply READY SEAL.

**Caution:** *The most common mistake made when applying READY SEAL is its application to wood that is not dry enough: 12% moisture or less. 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 or peeling off later. This is precisely what READY SEAL is designed NOT to do. But READY SEAL only works as intended if these application guidelines are followed.*



## 3. 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.