

Technical Data Sheet #1

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This document supersedes all previous versions

Resin bleed in treated pine decking

Resin can sometimes persist in wood even after a tree is sawn into timber products such as decking. When exposed to heat, resins can soften and mobilise, exuding from parts of the timber often around knots or other features of the natural timber structure: this is called "Resin Bleed".

In pine species, the resin often has a characteristic aroma, is typically sticky and can be clear or coloured. The areas of resin bleed are usually small and can affect finishes by bleeding under or through the finish. It is important to note that not all treated pine decking products will exhibit resin bleed and also that resin bleed does not affect the durability of the timber.

Dealing with resin bleed

As no two instances of resin bleed are exactly the same, the following recommendations are general in nature and may not prove effective in all cases. On delivery of your decking boards or after laying, you may notice resin bleed on small areas of the surface. The bleed should be scraped off and the area wiped with methylated spirits following manufacturers safety directions and then left for a week or more if possible to see if any further bleeding occurs. If bleeding has ceased, boards may now be finished with your preferred coating* following the manufacturer's directions.

It is highly recommended that a light-coloured finishing system is used as this will help to minimise heat gain in the timber which will discourage further resin bleed** and will have the added benefit of being cooler underfoot.

If resin bleed occurs after application of the finishing system, the local area can be scraped and cleaned and the finishing system re-applied in the area.

*Industry studies have shown that an acrylic (water based) coating system may assist in preventing resin bleed.

Additionally, an acrylic finishing system may allow the resin to form on the surface of the coating whereas an alkyd (oil-based) coating system may contain the resin bleed below the finish where it may appear as lumps. In either case, the area should be scraped if necessary and cleaned and the finish re-applied.

If resin bleed persists, some proprietary sealers containing shellac and other 2-pack polyurethane sealers have been successfully used, however these finishes may suit opaque finishes only and the paint manufacturer should be consulted before proceeding.

**Colours should have a Light Reflective Value (LRV) of 45 to 100, (100 being pure white). Colours with a LRV of 44 to 0 (0 being pure black) progressively generate extreme surface heat when exposed to direct sunlight. Over time this heat can cause resin bleed, shrinkage, distortion, cracking and will also reduce the service life of the paint coatings.

Pictured below: resin bleed around a knot.



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