



PAINTING LOSP TREATED TIMBER PRODUCTS

WHAT IS LOSP TREATED TIMBER?

LOSP stands for Light Organic Solvent Preservative.

Wood products treated with LOSP are protected against fungal decay, insect and termite attack. An additional benefit of the LOSP treatment process is 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 periodic wetting only and should never be used in contact with the ground or near ground contact. This Data Sheet is concerned with opaque paint finishes although alternative finishes are discussed in *Further Information and other finishes*.

BEFORE YOU PAINT - DO YOU NEED TO RESEAL THE LOSP?

It is recommended and a condition of the Koppers Guarantee (See *Guarantee for details*.) that LOSP treated timber is resealed 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 reseat product is Protim Solignum XJ or equivalent which is available from hardware chains. 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 reseat before the application of the paint system.

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.

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND OTHER FINISHES

- 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 within the time expected, do not proceed to any further coats until the first coat has achieved satisfactory dryness and adhesion.
- If the first coat fails to dry it may be necessary to strip back to bare timber and allow it to weather for another week or two. Refer to the following points regarding resin bleed.
- Light paint colours are recommended in preference to darker colours. In humid areas where mould may grow on the paint surface, the use of a mouldicide in the paint is strongly recommended.
- If using exterior semi-transparent or solid colour penetrating oil based stain or similar use two or three coats of the stain as required or recommended by the paint manufacturer.
- Water based stains and un-pigmented sealants, oil or water repellents are not recommended.



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- 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 white exudation that has a characteristic aromatic odour. It is most commonly encountered around knots or other imperfections in the wood and in places where the tree sustained damage. Paint or stain 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 exuded resin from the surface.
- Allow to weather for a few days to ensure that the bleed has ceased.
- Seal the affected area with a suitable sealant.

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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