

Prevention

To prevent extractive discoloration by water-soluble tannins, it is important that the siding to be stained has a moisture content below 15%. Prior to siding installation, all faces of the lumber should be stained. The prestaining or prepriming of the siding material will ensure the moisture content of the lumber is stabilized, reducing wood swelling and shrinkage while improving siding durability. Clear water-repellent finishes, semi-transparent and semi-solid stains do not offer reliable protection from extractive discoloration. Oil-based solid color stains produce thin films, providing more protection than clear or semi-transparent stains. Since all water-based latex stains or paints use water as a carrier, they can actually create extractive discoloration problems.

The most important step in preventing wood tannin discoloration is the application of a high-quality oil or alkyd based, stain-blocking primer. Cabot Problem-Solver® Primers #8111 and 8022 contain polymerized, natural, linseed oil modified with alkyd resin to provide a continuous film impervious to moisture, especially when applied to all faces of the lumber. Acrylic latex stain-blocking primers often require two coats to be effective. However, there is no guarantee when it comes to the prevention of extractive discoloration. Proper construction techniques, combined with the use of high quality coatings correctly applied, are your best assurances against the occurrence or recurrence of extractive discoloration.

Hints for Preventing Extractive Bleeding

- * **Only stain/paint wood with a moisture content below 15%.**
- * **Use proper construction techniques:**
 - Adequate overhangs of two or more feet.
 - Proper flashing above windows, doors and at wall and roof intersections.
- * **Caulk correctly.** Use high performance, paintable exterior caulks with either acrylic or silicone acrylic, butyl, polysulfide or a polyurethane base. Avoid "bargain" or pure silicone caulks.
- * **Ventilate internal moisture.** Use dehumidifiers and ventilation fans in bathrooms and kitchens. In northern climates, install a vapor barrier behind the drywall on the warm side of the wall.
- * **Use a high quality oil or alkyd-based, stain-blocking primer,** applied to all faces of the siding lumber.
- * **Apply primer and stain or paint at proper spread rates.**



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