

Maintenance Coats of Finish

The most important thing that you can do to help maintain the finish of your log home is to keep it clean. An annual washing with Log Wash will help prevent airborne contaminants, dirt, bird droppings and sunlight from degrading the finish. How can keeping the surface clean prevent sunlight from degrading the finish? One of the features of our Advance clear topcoat is that it reflects Ultra-Violet (UV) radiation. If the surface is dirty and dull, it reflects less sunlight, and the absorbed UV light will eventually fade the color and gray the wood.

When it comes time to touch-up the topcoat and perhaps the color coat, especially on the south and west walls. The question is, when and where should maintenance coats of finish be applied? First, more is not necessarily better. If the wall does not need another coat of stain or topcoat, leave it alone. One of the features of Lifeline finishes is their vapor permeability. This allows water vapor to escape from the wood while preventing liquid water from penetrating through the finish (Figure 2). Applying the finishes at the recommended application rates, one or two coats of stain, depending on the color system chosen, and one layer of the topcoat maintains enough vapor permeability to allow water, that may enter the wood through checks and fissures, to evaporate through the finish. However, each additional coat of the finish that is applied reduces the vapor permeability. Thicker coats also reduce the vapor permeability (Figure 1). That is one reason why we always recommend applying thin coats.

The consequence of reducing the ability of a finish to breathe is the risk of the finish peeling if water gets between the wood surface and coating. Although occasional maintenance is an important factor in keeping your finish system in good shape, only apply additional coats where they are needed.

Returning to the question, if after washing with Log Wash you see that the surface has dulled, apply a single coat of LIFELINE Advance Gloss or Satin. A dull surface is a sign that the finish has eroded. If coating shows signs of weathering or fading color, feel free to apply another coat of LIFELINE stain to restore the color and a coat of Advance topcoat. We do not recommend applying another layer of topcoat on the walls that still look good. Additional coats applied unnecessarily can eventually lead to problems, i.e. reduced vapor permeability. As opposed to other manufactures' finishes, we do not recommend applying additional coats of stain or topcoat on a yearly schedule. If two coats of stain and one coat of topcoat have already been applied, we recommend applying additional coats only on an "as needed" basis. But we strongly recommend a good cleaning with Log Wash at least once a year to keep your home looking great and extending the longevity of your finish system.

Water Vapor
Molecules

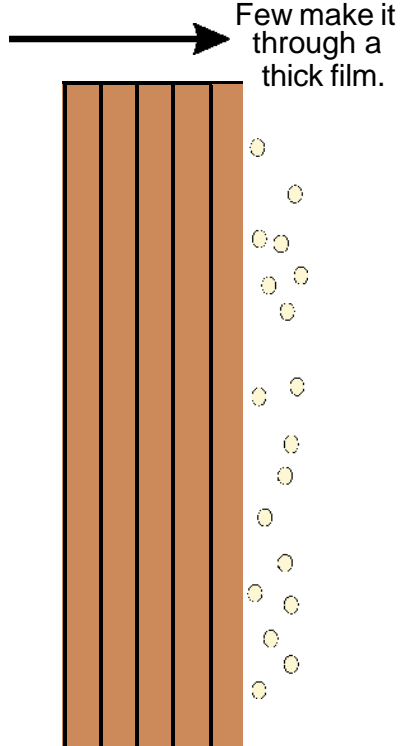


Figure 1

Water Vapor
Molecules

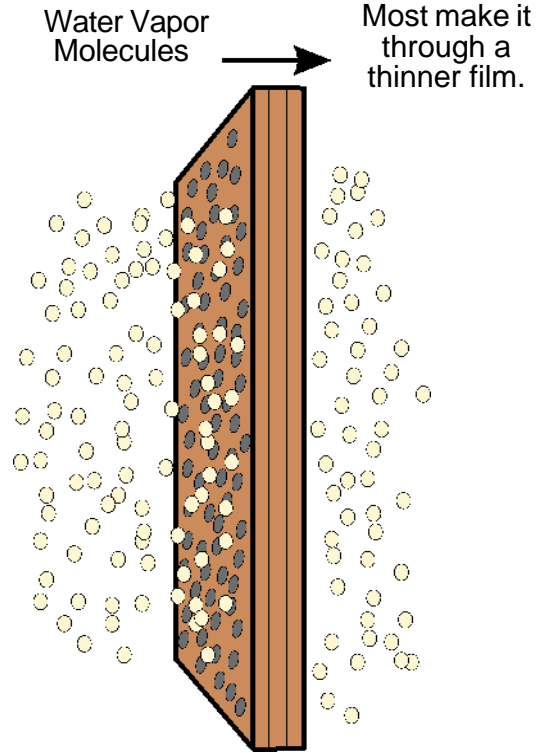


Figure 2