

Sealing Grayed Wood

Occasionally we get a call from someone whose home has a gray-aged patina that appeals to them. They typically want to apply some type of clear water repellent to seal and protect their home, without removing the grayed wood. The gray color indicates that the surface wood has been photo-oxidized by ultraviolet (UV) light with the loss of wood integrity. Applying any film-forming finish over grayed wood presents a problem. The finish will peel off as the damaged fibers split and splinter. With this in mind, we never recommend applying any of our stains or topcoats over gray, photo-oxidized wood.

Although there are solvent-based products that can be applied to grayed wood surfaces they only last about six months. If you want to protect your home, you will have to first remove the grayed wood. If you like the gray look, use one of our gray colored stains. If you do not want to clean the surface down to bare wood, make sure that all chink joints, checks and other places that allow water entry are well sealed with a quality sealant.

