

## Interior Color Coats and Topcoats

For several years our Lifeline Advance Topcoats have been an integral part of our exterior finish systems. In addition to prolonging the life of the finish system, Advance topcoats help keep the exterior surfaces free of dust and dirt, making them easier to clean. That is because Advance is designed specifically as a topcoat. Advance is not only a non-pigmented version of our Lifeline stain, but also a completely different formula for the performance required in a topcoat. This allows us to formulate our stains for maximum color retention and adhesion when applied to bare wood.

The same concept applies to our Lifeline Interior finishes as well. Acrylic Gloss and Satin (G/S) and Sure Shine Gloss and Satin (G/S) are totally different formulations than Lifeline Interior. Lifeline Interior, Lifeline Accents and Prelude contain polymer systems that offer some distinct adhesion advantages when applied to bare wood, however, when left exposed without a topcoat, they are more susceptible to dirt pick-up. When top coated with Acrylic G/S or Sure Shine G/S, the finish surfaces become much more resistant to dirt pick-up. Also, since the coated surfaces are slick and smooth, they can be kept clean with much less effort. The bottom line is that Lifeline Interior, Lifeline Accents or Prelude are highly recommended to be top coated with either Acrylic G/S or Sure Shine G/S.

Whenever you are deciding on a topcoat, be sure to obtain samples of both Sure Shine G/S and Acrylic G/S. If Acrylic G/S does not result in the smooth, slick surface you want, try Sure Shine G/S. Sure Shine G/S is a water-based acrylic-urethane that builds depth and luster with fewer coats. However, polyurethane films are less breathable, so we do not recommend their use on wood that is not fully seasoned. One or two coats of Sure Shine G/S can always be applied over the Acrylic G/S later if you want a smoother, deeper finish on your interior walls.

What if you do not want a pigmented stain on your interior wood? Do you need to apply Prelude or Lifeline Interior Clear before applying Sure Shine G/S or Acrylic G/S? From a technical and performance standpoint, it does not matter. Prelude, however, includes an additive called UV Boost that will help prevent the picture frame effect that occurs over time. Although UV Boost can be added to Interior Clear, Acrylic G/S and Sure Shine G/S, most people prefer not to spend more money than required. Using Prelude as a primer on bare interior wood will significantly decrease the amount of the more expensive Acrylic G/S or Sure Shine G/S, since the wood will be sealed.

