

Time to refresh?



A BWF Timber Window Accreditation Scheme Fact Card on

RE-DECORATION

Why you need to re-decorate

All products deteriorate over time and this is particularly true of those that are exposed to the elements. Wind, rain and sunlight – not to mention wind-borne spores and insects – all contribute to the breakdown and deterioration of all materials' appearance. It is therefore important to protect these products by putting a barrier between them and the elements.

Whatever their framing material, windows are no exception. Previous claims that some windows were effectively 'maintenance free' have since been proven to be wrong.

When you need to re-decorate

The challenge for window manufacturers is to make the barrier to the elements as effective as possible, to last as long as possible and to make renewing that barrier as easy as possible when it does become necessary. For many years modern quality timber window manufacturers have worked in conjunction with their suppliers to develop window systems that will offer long life and low maintenance.

BWF Accredited Timber Windows are guaranteed not to need re-coating for up to 8 years. When it is necessary, a quick rubdown of the surface should be all that is necessary in preparation, followed by a simple coat of paint or stain. The beauty of re-coating timber windows is that when they are done, they look brand new again. Alternative materials can go permanently yellow or grey, or become pitted and brittle.

So long as timber windows are properly maintained, they will last.

Including:

- Preparation
- Patch prime
- Denib
- Bring forward
- Preparing the final coat
- Final coat
- First re-decoration
- Subsequent re-decoration

Preparation

Remove any loose coating material from the affected areas with a fine grade of sandpaper (or equivalent), taking care to sand in the direction of the "grain". Ensure that any 'grey' timber that has been damaged by ultraviolet light is removed back to a clean, bright surface.

Patch prime

In DRY weather, apply one coat of appropriate base stain or primer to all bare timber. Contact the window manufacturer for more information on which type is best to use for their products. Ensure any end grain is completely coated. Allow the coating material to dry.

Denib

Rub lightly with a fine grade sandpaper, or equivalent. Do not break the surface of the coating material. Remove all dust.

Bring forward

Apply one or two coats of the relevant exterior quality stain or paint system to the patch primed areas; ensure any end grain is completely coated. Allow to dry between coats.

Preparing the final coat

Wash with lukewarm water and a liquid detergent solution. Rinse with clean water. Allow to dry.

Final coat

Apply one generous coat of the appropriate stain or paint system in a full-flowing manner (see manufacturer's instructions). Completely cover any end grain. Do not apply the coating material too thinly.

Avoid getting any wood stain or paint on the weatherseals or hardware.

Fully factory finished BWF Accredited Timber Windows carry a guarantee of up to eight years on paints and five years on wood stains. This guarantee and the required maintenance will be dependant on the window's exposure to the weather in situ.

First Re-decoration

Construction	Climate					
	Moderate <small>(e.g. inland areas, low altitude)</small>		Hard <small>(e.g. within ½ mile of coastline)</small>		Extreme <small>(e.g. coastal or high altitude)</small>	
	Translucent	Opaque	Translucent	Opaque	Translucent	Opaque
Sheltered <small>(e.g. beneath porch or large roof overhang)</small>	Every 5 years	Every 8 years	Every 5 years	Every 8 years	Every 5 years	Every 7 years
Partly sheltered <small>(e.g. window built back into reveal)</small>	Every 5 years	Every 8 years	Every 5 years	Every 7 years	Every 3-4 years	Every 5 years
Not sheltered <small>(e.g. face of building)</small>	Every 5 years	Every 7 years	Every 3-4 years	Every 5 years	Every 3-4 years	Every 5 years

Subsequent Re-decoration

Construction	Climate					
	Moderate <small>(e.g. inland areas, low altitude)</small>		Hard <small>(e.g. within ½ mile of coastline)</small>		Extreme <small>(e.g. coastal or high altitude)</small>	
	Translucent	Opaque	Translucent	Opaque	Translucent	Opaque
Sheltered <small>(e.g. beneath porch or large roof overhang)</small>	Every 5 years	Every 6 years	Every 5 years	Every 6 years	Every 4-5 years	Every 5 years
Partly sheltered <small>(e.g. window built back into reveal)</small>	Every 5 years	Every 6 years	Every 4-5 years	Every 5 years	Every 3 years	Every 4-5 years
Not sheltered <small>(e.g. face of building)</small>	Every 4-5 years	Every 5 years	Every 3 years	Every 4-5 years	Every 3 years	Every 4-5 years

Note: Construction and Climate classes based on the classifications described in BS EN 927-1: 1997. Manufacturers' recommendations may vary.

In practice, carrying out the first redecoration approximately one year before the recommended time will significantly improve the longevity of the coating system. Re-decorating can be phased by elevation. By using the above chart, the redecoration period for each face can be evaluated, avoiding the need to necessarily re-decorate every elevation at the same time.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the window manufacturer for further information regarding the maintenance requirements for your particular window. They may direct you to the manufacturer of the coating system or hardware if you have a particularly complicated query.

Every BWF Accredited Timber Window is supplied with care and maintenance instructions.

Note: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advice given, the Federation cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of the information supplied in this publication.

Contact BWF Accredited Manufacturers for fully factory finished timber windows

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