

FACT SHEET

PREPARATION OF LOSP TIMBER

With the increasing cost and diminishing availability of quality naturally durable timber, builders are relying more on finger-jointed pre-primed LOSP-treated pine for exterior applications. LOSP (light organic solvent preservative) consists of preservatives dissolved in solvent and impregnated into the timber to provide protection against insect attack and fungal decay giving the timber durability in above-ground exterior applications.

Where the product is branded by a manufacturer and accompanied by a painting specification:- There are a range of finger-jointed LOSP pre-primed timber products, in the market place, in a range of colours. Some are branded and are factory-coated with a high quality architectural primer and are ready for painting. These can typically be identified by the presence of a manufacturer's brand and will have associated recommended painting guidelines. In this situation, the manufacturer's guidelines should be followed for application of finishing systems.

If the product does not have a manufacturer's specification:- There are other LOSP pre-primed timber products where the LOSP pre-priming is primarily designed to temporarily protect the timber from weather and UV degradation, as well as soiling during construction. These products are typically either not branded or the manufacturer does not have associated recommended finishing paint guidelines.

In such cases the following procedures are recommended:- First test the adhesion of the primer to the timber. Cut a small "x" through the existing coating with a sharp blade. Press cellulose tape firmly across the cut and then rip off the tape. If any of the existing coating comes off it is unsound and must be removed by sanding. If in any doubt sand the surface before painting.

- 1 Fill nail holes with an exterior grade wood filler.
- 2 Sand back until surface is completely free from all dirt and degraded material and dust off.

- 3 Prime all surfaces, including cut ends and joints, with a good quality solvent-based alkyd primer. Water-based primers are less effective in this application.
- 4 Allow a minimum of 24 hours to dry, then sand to an even finish if necessary.
- 5 Apply two full coats of premium brand 100% acrylic exterior topcoat to the manufacturer's recommendation.

Note:

- 1 While gloss enamels will provide higher initial gloss, acrylics will provide longer gloss retention, longer life, and easier recoating (less preparation needed).
- 2 LOSP treatments contain water-repellents which can cause water-borne coatings not to spread uniformly and wet the surface. This can occur even with acrylic topcoats applied over an oil-based primer, as the water-repellent can dissolve into an oil-based coat. This can be overcome by sanding and/or washing with turps to remove the water-repellent from the surface of the timber or the oil-based paint film.

The high moisture content of radiata pine is also a major problem with excessive shrinking. We recommend a moisture check be carried out before painting. The moisture content should be below 15%

KEY PROBLEMS

- Resin bleeding through finished paint work;
- Splitting from edges of timber;
- Shrinking of timber;
- Lack of film thickness as recommended by manufacturers;
- Knot holes falling out;
- Splintering of timber;
- Ends not primed;
- Cracking and peeling back to bare substrate or within the primer layer itself.

DISCLAIMER

This Fact Sheet is intended to help those having to prepare and paint pre-primed LOSP treated pine. It is not intended to be a sole source of reference or a substitute for regulations and standards which may relate to this work. Applicability to individual circumstances or risks must be considered in the light of those circumstances. The APMF cannot accept liability in respect of any consequences arising as a result of using the information and advice offered.