

Remmers Information Sheet

Clear exterior finishes

It is increasingly common for clients of joinery customers to ask for exterior hardwood joinery items (mainly Oak) to be supplied in what they describe as a natural finish. In nearly all instances the joinery manufacturer interprets this as a request for clear finishes. Coatings manufacturers such as Remmers have developed clear coatings due to the large demand for them, although it would not be something we would recommend to customers for the long term protection of wood. In fact Remmers along with nearly all the main coatings manufacturers point out that clear coatings have a limited lifespan and require regular maintenance.

Under exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun, clear coating systems have a tendency to become brittle which, combined with the lack of pigments to absorb the energy from the UV light, results in more rapid erosion of the resin binder used in the coating. Additionally, as a result of exposure to UV light the surface of the timber is also damaged. This then results in the surface of the timber becoming de-stabilised which in turn may cause the clear coating to lose its adhesion and thus become detached on a localised or widespread scale.

Below is a sample of oak with a clear finish on prior to exposure.



In the picture below the sample has been weathered for a year and is showing signs of grey timber and surface deterioration. On many areas the coating has eroded to bare timber



Solutions

It is possible to prevent this from happening so quickly by introducing clear UV light absorbing additives or pigments into the coating so that they can delay the onset of the inevitable break down of the coating and damage to the timber surface. This can extend the life to as much as 2 years with clear finishes and even 3 years with lightly pigmented finishes in certain sheltered exterior exposure conditions. In more intense, less sheltered exposures more regular maintenance may be necessary. Regular maintenance of the surface using the Remmers Care set for windows will help maintain very light colour translucent finishes. For further information on the possible clear or highly translucent coating options we recommend you talk to one of the Remmers Woodcoating Technical Team.

This has been prepared based on Remmers' current knowledge and experience of current best practice in the fields of coating application, timber technology and joinery and building design. Such best practice advice is always subject to change. Remmers cannot be responsible for the application of the coating and the extent to which our customers adhere to this best practice. In case of changes in the parameters of the application, such as changes in substrates, or in case of a different application, consult Remmers' Technical Team prior to using Remmers products. Any quantities shown are for guidance only and the user must allow for variations in temperature, surface profile, absorbency and wastage. The user of the product must test the product's suitability for the intended application and purpose. Except as expressly stated in writing Remmers' warranty is governed exclusively by our current Standard Terms and Conditions of Sale. In particular, Remmers does not warrant the correct application of its products.