When other timber coatings fail professionals turn to Cutek

FACTSHEET No 3– How to use Cutek LowVOC wood protection oil

Cutek LowVOC is identical to Cutek CD50, but with a lower VOC content, and is suitable for some interior timbers and **green star rated projects.** It takes longer to diffuse into the timber and has a shorter shelf life, so is only available as a special order product.

Surface preparation is critical!

In order for **Cutek LowVOC** to function properly, it is essential that it is able to diffuse deeply into the timber. Any situations that would inhibit this free diffusion such as retained moisture, insufficient time between coats, or the presence of any surface sealant, old coatings or other barrier, must be avoided or satisfactorily remedied prior to using **Cutek LowVOC**.

Preparation may involve thorough sanding or stripping to completely remove the previous coating. If stripping is required, we recommend the use of **Cutek CD33 Naked**. Once all the previous coating has been removed, the surface should be cleaned with **Cutek Proclean**. Cleaned timbers to be coated with **Cutek LowVOC** should be absolutely dry before applying **Cutek LowVOC.**

NEW TIMBER and PLYWOOD

Ensure that timber to be coated is clean and dry. The glue in plywood or laminated timber may inhibit diffusion of the oil. **Cutek LowVOC** can be used on CCA and other treated timber, however timber pre-treated with wax and polymer processes such as LOSP may require cleaning first with **Cutek Proclean**.

OLD, OR PREVIOUSLY COATED TIMBER and PLYWOOD

Old, dirty, stained or weathered timber should be prepared by first applying **Cutek Proclean** restoration agent, then power rinsing with a high pressure washer set to under 750 p.s.i. (50 bar), with a fan jet pattern to avoid damage to the wood fiber. Once the timber is thoroughly dry, apply two coats of **Cutek LowVOC** (see application procedure below).

High-pressure water alone will not eliminate biological growth from timber and may damage the wood fiber. Avoid the use of sodium hypochlorite bleaches which harm the environment and may damage the timber.
Wood previously coated with stains, linseed oil, paint, polyurethane, etc., must first be restored with a paint stripper such as **Cutek CD33 Naked** and/or **Cutek Proclean** prior to the application of **Cutek LowVOC**. This process can be complex, so visit our website *www.cutek.com.au* for more information, and to download the **Cutek CD33 Naked** and **Cutek Proclean** factsheets.

IMPORTANT information about colour

Exterior timbers coated with clear **Cutek Extreme** stabilising oil will silver with age. Specially formulated colourtones are available and can be purchased separately to mix with clear **Cutek Extreme** to maintain the natural bamboo or timber colour character, delay silvering, and retain the 'freshly oiled look' for longer. For further information please refer to Factsheet 4.

Application Technique

Avoid contact with plants, shrubs, trees and waterways. Protect adjacent areas. Use safety equipment as specified in the Safety Data Sheet available for download at www.cutek.com.au/msds.html.

Ensure the timber to be coated is dry—with a moisture content of no more than 17%.

If using a colourtone, add the tin of colourtone to the tin of **Cutek LowVOC** and stir well. It is essential that the mixed **Cutek LowVOC** be stirred frequently before and during use.

For best results one coat of **Cutek LowVOC** should be applied to all faces of the timber prior to construction, with a second coat of **Cutek LowVOC** applied once construction is complete. Any second coat should only be applied once the first coat has completely penetrated and is dry. The time taken for **Cutek LowVOC** to diffuse into the timber varies significantly, depending on aspect, species, ambient temperature, porosity and moisture content of the timber. Thicker timbers such as posts, beams and logs will require additional coats of **Cutek LowVOC** in order to obtain adequate protection, as **Cutek LowVOC** has a cumulative effect in the wood with each application.

Apply liberally to absorbent timbers with brush, paint-pad, fabric mop, lambswool applicator or roller while removing drips and sags as necessary. Apply more sparingly to dense timbers—three thin coats on dense hardwoods are better than two heavy coats. The more **Cutek LowVOC** product absorbed, the longer the coating will last.

Cutek LowVOC does not leave lap marks, and areas that have not dried after three days should be left longer to dry, or wiped dry, before re-coating or allowing foot traffic on the deck. Drying only occurs after full diffusion into the timber, and will be significantly slower during winter or cold ambient temperatures.

Equipment may be cleaned with detergent and water, or mineral turpentine.

A second coat should be applied when the first coat is dry, which may be up to 72 hours or even longer depending on weather conditions. If the first coat took more than 72 hours to dry, apply a thinner coat the second time.

Coverage

These figures represent typical averages for common decking and cladding timbers such as Western Red Cedar, Pine, Spotted Gum, Jarrah, Ironbark, Ipe, Tiger deck, Cumaru and other Exotics, Thermal wood etc.

New hardwoods dressed	10–15m^2/litre (400–800sq feet/gallon)
Old restored timber dressed	7–9m^2/litre (300–400sq feet/gallon)
New timber rough sawn	7–9m^2/litre (300–400sq feet/gallon)
Old restored timber rough sawn	4–7m^2/litre (180–300sq feet/gallon)
Shingles and shakes	2–5m^2/litre (84–212sq feet/gallon)