



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Editor's Note: photos wood and wood work available upon request.

### **How to Successfully Select and Protect Wood for DIY Projects**

*--Sansin Corporation touts wood as beautiful, durable and inherently "green" material--*

Strathroy, Ontario, Canada (March 3, 2011) – Spring and summer are just around the corner. That means so are home improvement projects that require better weather conditions. Wood decks and exteriors can indeed last long and wear gracefully, but you need to select the right wood and then protect it in the right way, says Sjoerd Bos, Vice President of Sansin, the leader in environmentally-friendly wood protection.

According to Bos, wood is not only beautiful, but it is also strong, durable and kind to the environment. "In a time when it's all about 'green building,' wood is about as green as it gets," notes Bos. "Wood feeds the atmosphere as it grows and nourishes the earth at the end of its lifecycle. Wood is our only truly renewable resource and should be the go-to element for any building project. It just takes a little planning to ensure a desirable outcome."

When wood is carefully selected and properly protected, it can compete with any other building material on the market in terms of durability and easy upkeep, according to Bos. He offers these tips for selecting and using wood in building projects to ensure an end product that is both beautiful and easy to maintain.

1. **Protect Wood from Moisture:** Wood needs to remain dry and have minimal exposure to rainfall to naturally prevent decay. Design techniques – such as using overhangs – can be utilized to preserve the life of the wood. If this isn't possible a deep-penetrating preservative or pressure-treated wood might be the best bet, according to Bos.
2. **Consider Performance when Selecting Wood Type:** Rather than letting the look of the wood dictate your choice, Bos suggests selecting the type of wood for your project based on its performance characteristics. For example, Spruce is a very strong, long lasting wood, making it a good candidate for wall construction. Teak, on the other hand, holds up well to wet environments and is resistant to decay and traffic, making it a solid choice for marine use.
3. **Protect Deck Wood from the Inside Out:** Bos says decks offer unique challenges because they are typically high-traffic areas, completely exposed to the elements, and have a horizontal orientation. Additionally, moisture content fluctuates with the seasons, making decks particularly challenging to protect. Bos recommends deck protection that has a penetrating, non-film-forming finish. These coatings tend to wear or erode rather than peel, allowing a quick recoat to bring back the original beauty and protection.
4. **Consider Low VOC Finishes:** Wood is an inherently "green" building material so why not protect it naturally? Look for low VOC (volatile organic compound) finishes that penetrate wood. Penetrating, non film forming finishes are far easier to maintain, especially on decks, as these coatings will tend to wear or erode rather than peel. And, water-borne alkyd, penetrating stain formulas are also less toxic, protecting from within for longer lasting protection.



### **About Sansin**

For 25 years, Sansin has been the only wood protection company focused exclusively on researching, developing, and introducing environmentally friendly, 'water-borne' interior and exterior wood products and technologies. Sansin's products deliver outstanding color, durability and performance, without the toxicity found in conventional stains. Sansin Enviro Stains use water, not petroleum solvents, to deeply penetrate and protect wood naturally, from within. Sansin has dealer networks in both Canada and the U.S. To learn more about Sansin Corporation, its line of Enviro Stains or how to become a Sansin preferred dealer, visit [www.Sansin.com](http://www.Sansin.com).

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