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

Five Simple Steps to Winterize Exterior Wood Coatings

—[Sansin Corporation](#) offers tips for fall that can save time, money come spring—

Strathroy, Ontario, Canada (Oct. 17, 2011) – Winter will be here in the blink of an eye. Homeowners typically prepare their residences for winter's arrival by draining and storing water hoses, blowing out sprinkler systems, checking furnaces, and applying weather stripping around doors and windows. However, wood decks and siding - and the coatings that protect them - are often overlooked.

According to [Sansin Corporation](#)'s Vice President Sjoerd Bos, spending a little time winterizing exterior finishings this fall can save money come spring. Bos says that exterior wood surfaces are put through the rigors during the winter months as temperatures fluctuate from day to night.

“Radiant energy can cause snow and ice to melt during the day, but then freeze again overnight,” explains Bos. “If the surface is not prepared properly and the coating is not applied according to the manufacturer’s recommendations, moisture can cause premature wear and surface degradation.”

So how do homeowners keep wood coating in top shape long after the winter months wane?

“We recommend that our customers inspect their coating on a semi-annual basis,” says Bos. He offers these simple winterization steps be completed this fall to save time and money.

1. Clean surfaces: Dirt supports the growth of fungi and acts as an abrasive which can damage the protective wood coating, according to Bos. Clean the dirty surfaces to keep wood healthy through the winter.
2. Test for water repellency: Spray the treated surface with water to make sure the coating adequately resists moisture absorption. If the water soaks into the wood rather than beading up, consider prepping the surface then applying a maintenance coat.
3. Look for color loss: Once there is color loss, coatings tend to deteriorate quickly. If color loss is determined, Bos recommends washing the surface then applying a maintenance coat.
4. Consider design/landscape elements: To avoid overexposure to moisture, Bos recommends adjusting sprinklers so they don't saturate treated surfaces. He also says



homeowners could consider lowering the grade of the lawn or adding gravel to the garden to reduce splash-back from rain coming off the roof.

“Just as proper preparation of the surfaces before staining will help maintain the integrity of the coating, these landscape and design steps can also make a difference in overall performance and durability,” Bos says.

5. Consider a breathable wood stain from the beginning: Some non-penetrating, water-based stains or high solids solvent-based products build a film on the wood that can trap moisture. Penetrating oils that allow the wood to breathe keep the moisture content low and the wood healthy.

According to Bos, “Not only does a wood finish have to repel water and ice, it has to allow the water to evaporate quickly and keep the moisture equilibrium stable.”

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.

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