



D.I.Y DECK

A DO-IT-YOURSELF GUIDE TO RESTORING DECKS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

SANSIN PAINT & STAIN REMOVER

Easily removes oil and latex paint and stain coatings – simply spray on and power-wash off.



SANSIN MULTI-WASH

Removes mildew, dirt and contaminants – biodegradable and easy to use.



SANSIN SDF

Complete wood protection in just one coat. Outstanding weather and UV protection.



It's never too soon to start thinking about Spring renovation projects. With the elements brought on by the winter months, your deck will likely require a little "TLC" when Spring arrives.

Sun, rain and snow wreak havoc on decks and porches causing old finish to come off, leaving the wood unprotected and open to rotting and splitting. No matter what kind of wood you've chosen for your deck, all decking benefits from a protective finish.

To help you determine whether or not your deck needs attention, do a simple test in the spring or the fall. Apply a few drops of water to the wood. If it beads, your wood is likely still well protected and you won't need to undertake a restoration project.

If the water soaks into the wood, you know that restoration or a maintenance coat might be beneficial.

You may want to refinish your deck anyway if it looks worn and dirty. If the deck passed the water drop test, try cleaning it with Multi-Wash to clean off any contamination and possible mold and mildew buildup. That could be all you need to do – but if that doesn't work, it might be time to invest in a little maintenance.

Tools and Materials you'll need for your refinishing project:

- Choose the ideal wood restoration products. (For the E'Terra project we selected Sansin Paint and Stain Remover and Sansin SDF Monterey Red)
- Plastic tarps (for covering any landscaping that surrounds the deck)
- Random orbital sander and sand paper
- Goggles to protect your eyes and hands
- Rubber gloves and rubber boots to protect your hands and feet (if using an aggressive cleaner or stripper)
- Water hose
- A suitable 4" staining brush or two and at least one extension handle
- Stain sprayer

STEP 1 SELECT THE PRODUCTS YOU NEED

Carefully select the Wood Restoration Product(s) that best suit your needs. E'Terra used Sansin Paint & Stain Remover to remove the old coating and clean and restore the natural wood colour in preparation for the new protective coating.

The best time to use Sansin Paint & Stain Remover is on a cloudy day or out of direct sunlight because the product needs to remain wet while dissolving the old coating.

It is a biodegradable product that will not harm the environment, when it is washed from the wood.

If you can, choose a cool day with little wind to begin your project; you'll achieve optimum results.

STEP 2 SITE PROTECTION

Protect your landscaping and yourself. Soak any plants that are around the deck then cover with plastic tarps. This will help to dilute any cleaner that may inadvertently find its way under the tarp and therefore, reduce the risk of damage to the plant.

Now's a good time to double check if you have the protective gear you'll need to complete the project.

STEP 3 STRIP THE DECK

Now that you have the proper protective gear on, apply the deck cleaner/stripping product. It's important to carefully follow instructions on the product can. Pay particular attention to how the product should be applied and how long to leave it on. You may be required to scrub the surface to help with the process depending on the current finish on your deck.

STEP 4 RINSE YOUR DECK

Once the cleaner has been applied for the recommended period of time, rinse off the deck with a hose. Use a lot of water and saturate the deck including the tarps. Let the deck dry thoroughly and perform a visual check to ensure that the old coating has been completely removed. If a small amount of coating is still visible, then you need to decide whether to re-apply the stripper or whether the sanding step will remove the left over finish adequately.

STEP 5 PREPARE YOUR DECK

Apply the Wood Lightener. Simply follow the instructions on the package and apply the wood lightener to the dry wood surface; it will neutralize the wood making it receptive to a new coating while restoring the wood colour. This product comes attached to the Sansin Paint & Stain Remover (Stripper) and should be rinsed off well after application.



STEP 6 FINE-TUNING

Sanding is a vital step in the final preparation of your wood surface. This is by far the most time consuming task of the project – for example, E'Terra's 3,000 sq. ft. deck took almost 24 hours to sand.

Our professionals tell us that sanding using a random orbital sander with 60-80 grip paper results in a number of benefits.

- Sanding contributes to a consistently leveled surface extending the life of your coating, as erosion wear is consistent and not limited to high spots;
- Sanding creates a consistent porous surface that will absorb more of the protective coating resulting in a better wood finish performance; and
- Sanding will also pay off in beauty.

Following the sanding work done on the E'Terra project, any residual contamination and dust was promptly removed from the deck with a vacuum.



STEP 7 STAINING YOUR DECK

Again, carefully review the published directions for use for your product. E'Terra chose Sansin SDF - Monterey Red. This product was chosen for its excellent reputation and strong environmental characteristics. Two coats of Sansin SDF were applied by garden sprayer and thoroughly back-brushed. The first coat was allowed to dry completely before applying the second coat.

STEP 8 PROTECT YOUR DECK

Whatever finish you apply, it should be comprehensive in protection. We chose to use Sansin SDF for E'Terra because it protects against wood rot, ultra violet light and repels water.

STEP 9 CLEAN UP

Rinse off the plastic tarps one more time to make sure all of the cleaner and stain is removed. Safely dispose of any one-time use protective gear and tools and store leftover product and equipment.

STEP 10 MAINTAIN YOUR DECK

A good quality coating like Sansin Enviro-Stain will protect your deck for two to five years. Sansin SDF Monterey Red is transparent and natural in colour. The manufacturer suggests applying a maintenance coat when we notice that the coating is no longer water repellent or begins to fade, a strong sign of wear and tear. E'Terra expects to maintain its deck every two to three years due to the harsh Georgian Bay Shoreline environment.

We recommend cleaning your deck with Sansin Multi-Wash prior to a maintenance coat.