

Technical Bulletin No. 053

LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Surfactant Leaching



The cause of surfactant leaching is prolonged contact with a thin layer of standing water which subsequently dries on siding, particularly in packaged units.

Surfactants are required in the production of waterborne coatings (paint), some surfactants contain water-soluble components. In the presence of standing water the water-soluble surfactant can leach out or diffuse to an area of lower concentration.

LP has reduced surfactant loading since November 2019 to substantially reduce this from occurring. But if LP SmartSide ExpertFinish siding products are stored in a wet environment, for prolonged periods, surfactant leaching can occur. Preventing water from intruding in finished, packaged units will prevent leaching.

To remove surfactant from siding, wash off with a low-pressure garden hose, no detergent or soap is necessary. The residue is water-soluble, wiping with a soft sponge may aid removal for more difficult spots. Washing siding will not affect the coatings (paints) performance or limited warranty. If stubborn surfactant residue remains, LP recommends white vinegar at a 10:1 dilution with water. **Diluting the vinegar with water is critical to avoid paint damage.**

DO NOT USE: Detergents, solvents, scrubbing apparatus, etc.