



BULLETIN

SUBJECT: *Refinishing of Canexel Hardboard Siding*

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No.: CanExel-7

RE-FINISHING OF CANEXEL HARDBOARD SIDING

PRIOR TO PAINTING

Like any other painting job, there are several basic rules that should be followed to ensure a long lasting and attractive finish on hardboard siding.

SURFACE PREPARATION

This is the single most important step in any paint job. The surface must be dry, smooth and clean, and free from dust, mildew, oil or grease.

Heavily weathered surfaces are sometimes covered with a significant amount of "chalk". To ensure good adhesion of the fresh paint, the siding should be thoroughly washed to remove the chalk and clean the surface. Household detergents do a good job and the surface should be well scrubbed with a medium stiff brush from the bottom up.

If previously painted surfaces have started to peel, ALL peeling must be scraped or sanded off before re-coating, paint will not "glue down" the old, peeling coating.

Areas that have peeled down to the board surface should be spot-primed before re-coating.

Unsightly dents or gouges should be filled before applying paint or stain. Exterior type wood filler* should be used and sanded down when dry.

Paint peeling or flaking is normally caused by the natural weathering of the old coating. If, however, the peeling is caused by sustained wetting of the siding, the source of the moisture must be eliminated or the new coating will soon peel again. Wet board can be caused by rain leakage behind the siding, but more commonly by condensation of moisture from indoor winter air that leaks through the wall where there is poor, or missing, vapour barrier. If moisture is the cause of the peeling, the coating tends to come off in sheets (both on wood and hardboard), and the board under the peeled areas is a darker brown and shows a "tide mark" pattern.

Mildew (mould or fungus) must be killed before painting or it will continue to grow and eventually penetrate the new coating. In extreme cases, mildew may even cause paint failure and peeling.

If stains remain after washing, the marks are probably due to mildew which can be checked by applying hypochlorite laundry bleach to a darkened area. Mildew will normally bleach out in one or two minutes. Stain that does not bleach is probably dirt or rust.

Mild isolated areas of mildew can be killed by washing the siding with a mixture of one part bleach and three parts warm water. If mildewed areas are more extensive, the following mixture can be used to both wash the siding and neutralize the mildew:- 1/2 to 2/3 cup TSP* (trisodium phosphate), 1/3 cup detergent containing no ammonia (e.g. Spic & Span), 1 quart (1 litre) laundry bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite e.g. Javex, Chlorox, etc.), 3 quarts (3 litres) warm water.

It is advisable to wear rubber gloves and goggles when applying this solution. Scrub with a moderately stiff brush then rinse thoroughly with fresh water. Any solution splashed on shrubbery or grass should be immediately washed off with copious amount of water. Normally, best results are contained by washing from the bottom up to prevent streaking.

In regions where mildew is a serious problem, areas of exposed board surface can be treated with mildewcide to inhibit future growth. Addition of extra mildewcide to the paint will also minimize the problem.

On glossy type finishes or on unweathered areas, it is advisable to lightly roughen the surface with very fine sand paper (300 - 400 grit). Alternatively washing with above TSP solution (with or without the bleach) will provide a bond to the old coating. Note however that the TSP treatment is not effective on urethane coatings.

PAINT APPLICATION

Use a top-of-the line 100% pure acrylic latex (water-base) house paint.

Follow the recommendations on the label, avoiding application before rain or dew is expected. Generally speaking, application by brush is recommended although a roller, spray or pad can be used.

Where the original finish is sound one coat of paint over the original will provide good durability. Where there are significant areas of peeling two coats are recommended, in addition to the primer. The primer should be oil-based (alkyd).

On slick, unweathered hardboard surfaces it is wise to apply a first coat of oil-base (alkyd) primer followed by the water-base latex. This procedure is also recommended in cases of wax migration.

*Available from most hardware and paint stores.