

Information Data Sheet

Preparation of Pre-Primed Timber

Reference T4

With the increasing cost of quality durable timber, builders are relying more on pre-primed, LOSP – treated pine for exterior applications.

LOSP (light organic solvent preservation) consists of preservatives dissolved in solvent and impregnated into the timber to prevent rotting, giving the timber durability in above-ground exterior applications.

Pre-priming is designed to temporarily protect the timber from weather and UV degradation, as well as soiling during construction. Pre-primed timber, by its appearance or by the description given to it by persons handling it. Is often mistaken for properly primed timber ready for top coating.

Pre-primed timber is low cost, solvent borne, quick drying, factory applied products. They are formulated to dry quickly so that they can be applied on a production line and promptly dried, handled, stacked, stored and transported in bulk.

Pre-primers regularly fail within 12 months exterior exposure, taking any other coatings with them. Failure is by blistering or cracking and peeling, either back to bare timber or within the primer layer.

Primers are crucial to the durability of a coating system. Let's look at a comparison of pre-primers with wood primers recommended as part of a durable coating system:

Feature	Pre-primers	Premium architectural primers
Specially formulated for long Service life	No	Yes
Flexible to move with timber	No	Yes
GPC-P-18 approved for Exterior use	No	Yes

For satisfactory long-term service, the following system is recommended:

1. Remove pre-primed back to bare timber by sanding.
2. Prime bare LOSP-treated pine with acrylic primer; if all primer is required can use acrylic (but oil is best), alternatively, if traces of the pre-primer remain or the timber has any weathering, use oil-based primer.
3. Finish with an acrylic or enamel finish as required.