

FACTORY-APPLIED STAIN

Stain on wood products

Stain finishes are highly valued by customers because they make it possible to reveal the richness of the colour and the wood grain effect. While it may be quite beautiful at its natural state, the wood does not always match with the other colours or tones of our home, whether it's the same wood species or not (for instance, a hardwood floor or the kitchen cabinets). The natural colour of wood may vary from one tree to another, even among the same species. Moreover, the way that it is cut or carved may change the appearance of its growth rings. For instance, we may find in the same piece a mix of straight and clear lines as well as concentric shapes.

In order to suit different styles, we apply a stain colour to the wood in our factory. Once again, this process may change the colour, highlight the wood grain pattern or moderate its variations—depending on the selected stain colour. The first image shows clearly the variations between different pieces of eucalyptus while the second image illustrates the differences between several pieces of pine.

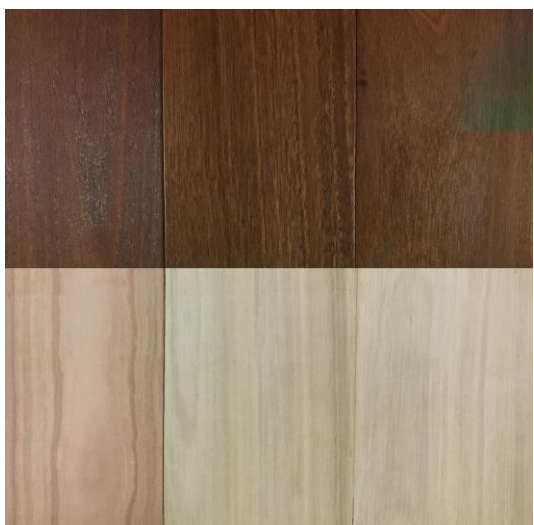


Image 1



Image 2

Lepage's original stain

Our team of experts carefully uses application methods specific to Lepage that help us standardize the various stains applied along the production line, from the analysis sample to the finished product. While the process is standardized, there is a chance that we can notice a difference in the final colour of the product; this may be caused by the colour variations, the porosity or the cuts in the original piece of wood. The wood species used for the project can also contribute to a variation, . At the present time, there is no tolerance standard available within the industry because different variables may affect the appearance of the finished product. It is therefore essential that the consumer be well informed when buying a living material that it is almost impossible to replicate while keeping the same consistency when it comes to appearance. Image 3 shows the differences in appearance between the eucalyptus (A), the pine (B) and the mahogany (C). The images 4 and 5 demonstrate that the shade may vary from a piece of the same wood species to another (the stain showed here has been applied on mahogany).



Image 3

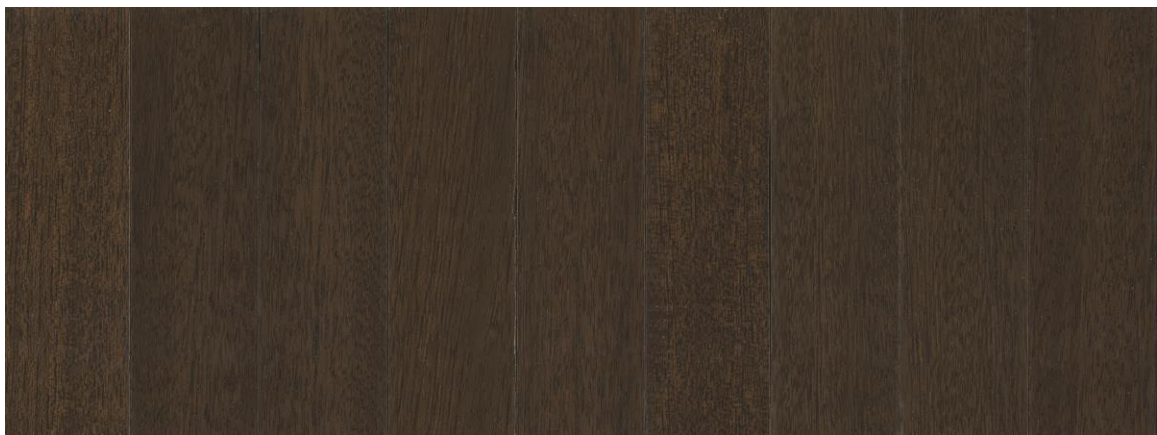


Image 4



Image 5

Here are other important elements to consider: the stain or varnish type, the gloss level and the colour can also alter the final visual effect. As a reference, the stain used by Lepage has a gloss level of 20%.

Following the installation

There is a requirement to carefully inspect the stain finish once the final product is installed in order to detect any irregularities such as scratches or cracks. If these are detected, it is essential to do touch-ups to maintain optimal protection. For example, a lack of varnish can allow water and humidity to come in, it can also create discoloration problems and cause premature destruction of wood components. The places that must be closely monitored are: the corners of the frames, the junction between the brick mould, the threshold extension and the frame, as well as the junction between the stiles and the rails. In order to seal the varnish, apply the original clear varnish (LEPVSCN) with a small brush.

In use

Once the product is installed, the finish will be subject to different temperature cycles and weather conditions. On an annual basis, it is necessary to inspect and to clean the finish with a mild soap and to apply the approved varnish generator (LEPREGEN). Its application can be done with a small brush or a clean cloth. In doing so, you add extra protection and restore the shine of the varnish.

If the inspection discloses some cracks or tears between the wood components or in the finish, you will have to seal the finish again by adding the original varnish (LEPVSCN) to the affected areas.

The windows that are more exposed to weather conditions, temperature changes and sun exposure (south front of the house, skylights...) will be more subject to faster deterioration and will need more care. The products protected by an overhang roof will therefore require less maintenance.

It is important to note that, even though the stain finish is intended for outdoor use, the wood colour may change over time. This change is less pronounced when the stain colour is darker. Some wood species will become darker with time (pine) while others may get lighter or more grayish (mahogany). See image 6 to witness the aging effect.



Image 6

- A. Pine (not exposed)
- B. Pine exposed for 12 months on the south facade
- C. Mahogany (not exposed)
- D. Mahogany exposed for 12 months on the south facade

It is always possible to enhance the colours, after some time, by applying a tinted protection varnish that contains the original pigmentation (LEPVSSCOLORED).

In summary, it is essential to care properly for the product in order to ensure its performance according to its average life expectancy (please refer to Lepage Millwork Care and Maintenance Guide)