

## **Lifestyle Cabins: Cabin Maintenance Instructions**

### **Introduction**

Congratulations on the purchase of your new cabin. It will give you many years of pleasure if a few very simple maintenance rules are followed. It is important that these are followed so please read carefully.

Your cabin is made of untreated Scots pine. Wood is a natural material, affected by growing conditions and other conditions. Large and small cracks, colour and tone differences, and some dimensional changes are to be expected. This is all quite normal and contributes to the beauty of wooden products. These changes tend to enhance the natural look of your cabin.

Some settling of the cabin is normal as is some of the joins widening and changing. If any gaps appear they can be easily sealed with a paintable silicone

In order for your cabin to remain in top condition and be durable it must have the appropriate coatings applied within two weeks.

### **1. Exterior Oiling**

One of the most important tasks to complete once you have assembled your cabin is to protect the outside. The best way to achieve this is to oil it with CD50. This is an excellent product that penetrates deeply into the wood. This stabilises it and reduces the chance of fungal and bacterial damage.

CD50 is available from any hardware or paint retailer.

Application must take place within 2 weeks of assembly. This prevents any deterioration of the timber and minimises the chances of excessive cracking, discoloration, or shifting of the timber. It also ensures that moisture cannot enter the timber.

The best way to treat your cabin is to apply the oil to the individual timber pieces prior to assembly. This gives the very best protection.

Be sure to always apply the product to the underside of the floor boards and the underside of the cabin prior to construction as these can be difficult to reach once the cabin is complete.

Applying CD50 to the rest of the assembled cabin is also a suitable solution.

Two coats should be applied as per the manufacturers instructions.

Be sure to apply the product to the underneath of the building to any exposed timbers.

### **2. Interior Oiling: Walls and Ceiling**

Protecting the interior is important and should be completed at the same time as the exterior. Treating both sides of the walls and cabin further reduces the chances of splitting warping and fungal attack. For the interior again CD50 is recommended.

Oiling also brings out the beautiful natural patterns and colours of the solid wood.

Again be sure to follow the manufacturers instructions carefully.

The walls and ceiling should have two coats applied.

### **Painting at a Later Stage**

If a paint finish is required at a later stage it is recommended to wait 6 months for the oiled product to fully absorb into the wood. When 6 months has passed use an Oil based paint and again be sure to follow the manufacturers instructions and also consult the CD50 website.

### **3. Exterior Painting (not oiling)**

CD50 provides the best protection as it penetrates the timber. Paint provides a surface protection only. It is still however a suitable option. If you choose this option then the following should be undertaken.

Please note our recommended paint supplier is Resene. However other companies offer a similar product range.

Painting must take place within 2 weeks of assembly. This prevents any deterioration of the timber and minimises the chances of excessive cracking, discoloration, or shifting of the timber. It also ensures that moisture cannot enter the timber.

Firstly apply a coat of 'TimberLock'. Wipe off excess 'TimberLock' at time of application and leave to cure for at least 48 hours before over coating with a full coat of Wood Primer. Apply an undercoat of 'Quick Dry' and finish with 2 coats of 'Lumbersider'. If selecting dark top coat colours we recommend the Resene CoolColour version of the top coat colour. Application of a Resene CoolColour system will reflect more heat than the same colour made using non-cool pigmentation and reduce heat related stress on the substrate; it will not make the painted surface cool to touch.

A CoolColour system will not necessarily stop resin migration from resin rich timber such as pine which is painted in dark colours or colours with an LRV that is below the timber suppliers LRV restrictions. There is no difference in the LRV values between the non-cool and cool colours as LRV is a measurement of reflectance of visible light, colour only.

When the paint starts to deteriorate be sure to repaint before it gets to a poor condition. Paint usually lasts between 5 and 10 years depending on the environment. The time to first maintenance is 5 years so we recommend repainting every 5 years.

### **4. Interior Painting**

Protecting the interior is important also.

The interior can be painted as well however this will cover the beautiful timber colours. For this reason we suggest that a finish is used that allows the wood to show its natural beauty.

If a clear finish is required then 3 coats of Aquaclear.

If you do decide to paint then 1 coat of Resene quick dry undercoat and 2 coats of Spacecote Low Sheen.

### **5. Floor**

Your floor is solid wood tongue and groove timber. It will retain its beautiful look if looked after carefully

The first thing to ensure is that when the cabin is being constructed it is not damaged or discoloured in any way at all.

Be sure to follow these basic steps

- a. Do not walk on them in dirty footwear. Be sure to only wear socks or other clean foot coverings.
- b. Do not spill anything on them.
- c. Do not expose them to rain or other moisture.
- d. Make sure all contractors adhere to these rules.

As discussed you should apply a coating ASAP, so as to prevent any of the above issues developing. Lifestyle Cabins required timeframe is within 2 weeks. CD50 is the recommended product.

If urethane is desired check for a suitable product which reflects the level of wear the floor will receive. If the underside of the floor has been treated with CD50 the supplier should be informed of this and will recommend a suitable product.

Failure to do anything will result in rapid discoloration and dirtying of the floor, as well as potential deterioration of the wood.

## **6. Adequate Air Circulation**

Moisture and water can be your biggest problem when it comes to looking after your cabin. The best way to ensure that they don't become so is to ensure that there is no standing water and that no part of the cabin remains wet for long. Always ensure that there is excellent air circulation around the cabin. Clear weeds away and never stack anything against the cabin. Always ensure that under the cabin is clear and free from any weeds, rubbish or anything that would prevent air flow. Air must be allowed to flow easily around all of the cabin at all times.

Don't leave your cabin locked up for extended periods of time with no interior air circulation. The owner should regularly open windows and doors to allow for ventilation.

## **7. Keep your Cabin Clean**

Always ensure the cabin is kept clean both on the exterior and the interior. The exterior should be washed with a suitable mild exterior cleaning product. Use a soft brush. Do not use pressure washing systems as they damage the wood and force water into the structure. Lifestyle Cabins requirement for exterior cleaning is every 6 Months.

Keeping the interior clean reduces the chance of rodent damage and reduces the risk of mould forming.

The asphalt tiles must be cleaned once per year with a moss and lichen inhibitor. This prevents build up.

Clean the windows and aluminium joinery with a non-abrasive cleaner and a soft cloth.

It is essential to the longevity of your cabin to implement the requirements of this maintenance manual.

As always with Lifestyle Cabins feel free to contact us at any time with feedback, suggestions or just a chat about your cabin.