

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Deck Care 10: It's All In The Prep

(MS) As the weather gets warmer, we tend to spend more and more time outdoors. There is no better place to sit and enjoy the great spring weather than on your deck. Did you know that the key to keeping your deck looking great for years is not in the stain or finish you apply, it's in the surface prep? Weathered wood needs to be cleaned and repaired before a single brush stroke of new stain or water-repellent can be applied. For a great looking deck, follow these tips from the experts at Wolman Wood Care Products.

Thoroughly clean. Clean pressure-treated wood decks with Wolman Deck-Brite™ Wood Cleaner & Coating Prep. An acid- and chlorine-free, oxygen-powered powder concentrate, it is tough on stains yet safe to use near plant life and shrubs. If you're not sure of your wood type, use Wolman Deck & Fence Brightener liquid concentrate. It is formulated to restore all wood, even tannin-rich woods like cedar, redwood, mahogany and other exotic hardwoods.

Both products clean and restore wood to its natural beauty without bleaching or yellowing and remove invisible surface barriers, which can prevent the adhesion of protective coatings and stains. These fast-acting formulas loosen and lift dirt, stains and discoloration in just 10 minutes. And they are easy to use, just mix with water, spray on, brush in and rinse off with a garden hose.

Strip away deteriorating or old stain. If the colored finish on your deck has been better days, or if you want a different look, remove it with a product like Wolman DeckStrip™ Stain & Finish Remover. For tough stains, use Wolman DeckStrip ASB Acrylic Stain Remover. Both remove oil- and water-based solid, semi-transparent and clear finishes, and prepare wood for a new finish or stain. The ready-to-use, highly concentrated formulas work in just 15 minutes without the need for multiple applications. They contain special wetting agents and thickeners that cling to all wood surfaces, even vertical surfaces, so they are great for fences, gazebos, play sets and more!

Beautifully and protect. Once your deck has been properly cleaned and restored, water-repellent coating is a must. Beautifully and protect. Once your deck has been properly cleaned and restored, water-repellent coating is a must. Beautifully and protect. Once your deck has been properly cleaned and restored, water-repellent coating is a must.

Apply a semi-transparent or solid stain, like Wolman DuraStain™, or a rich transparent oil finish, like Wolman F&P™, to enhance the beauty of your deck. Even if you decide not to stain, it's important to protect your deck with a clear water-repellent sealer. Water-repellent sealers stop rain from penetrating the wood surface, which can cause swelling, shrinking, warping and cracking. Many water-repellent sealers, including Wolman RainCoat™, also contain a mildewcide that will impede the growth of mildew on your deck during the warm, humid months ahead.

For more information on the complete line of Wolman Wood Cleaners and Stain Strippers and for more helpful wood care tips, visit www.wolman.com.

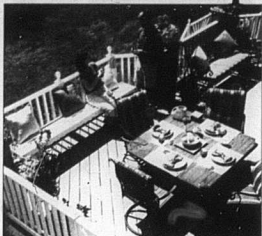


Photo courtesy of Metro Service. Surface preparation is a key component of deck maintenance.

Turn your garage into a showroom

(MS) Is your garage dingy, cluttered and in need of a facelift? Transforming it into a showroom for your car or the perfect home workshop isn't difficult. All it takes is a few hours, a little elbow grease and some advice from the experts at Rust-Oleum.

Here's how: Get rid of the clutter. Remove outdoor furniture, sports equipment, lawn mowers and garage clutter. Bag the trash, donate too-small items and other items you no longer need and declutter what will go back in the garage after your work is done. If you're like most homeowners, you'll gain a lot of space just by clearing the clutter. Paint the walls. Most homeowners don't think about painting the walls of their garage. Yet, a coat of ordinary latex paint can go a long way in bright-

ening the space and giving it a finished look. Don't forget the floor. Sweep it clean and remove dirt, oil or grease spots using a cleaner-degreaser. To give your garage a showroom-quality floor that will make you the talk of your neighborhood, finish it with Rust-Oleum EPOXY Shield Garage Floor Coating. Just one coat of EPOXY Shield protects garage floors against gasoline, antifreeze, motor oil, salt and

lot tire pick-up, and makes them easy to keep clean. Plus, the water-based, low-odor coating is environmentally friendly and easy to apply. Just roll on and add decorative color chips for a unique look. Available in gray, tan and a host of custom colors. EPOXY Shield is so beautiful and durable, your car will think it's still in the showroom. Organize! There are lots of garage storage options to choose from. Rust-Oleum offers storage pieces designed for sports equipment to help you get organized. You'll be surprised how a little organization can maximize your garage space. For more information on garage projects, floor finishing tips and techniques or to take a look at how other homeowners turned their garages from ordinary to extraordinary, visit www.oolgarage.com.

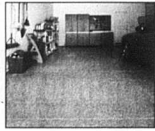


Photo courtesy of Metro Service. Organized garage space.

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Dealing with water stains

(MS) It happens every year. Months of wet winter weather followed by the spring thaw produce one of the most common household problems, water stains on walls or ceilings. You might be tempted to cover water stains with a fresh coat of paint. But, chances are, it won't work. Most water stains will bleed right through ordinary paint no matter how many coats of paint you apply. Fortunately, there are products designed to permanently block stains and prevent them from ruining your new paint job. Follow these steps from the experts at Zinsser to help you deal with water stains on any painted surface in your home. 1. Make sure the surface is sound. Eliminate any loose material. As soon as you'll have another unsightly water stain. 2. Clean the surface with a solution of one-cup bleach per gallon of water and rinse thoroughly with water to remove mildew, dirt and other unsightly deposits. 3. Try the surface completely. Use a hair dryer to dry small areas. Larger areas may require the use of a dehumidifier, heater or fan to ensure the surface is completely dry before painting. Prime the surface with an oil-base stain killing primer like Cover Stain. If you try to block a water stain with a water-based primer, the stain is likely to "re-weep" or bleed through. Cover Stain is specially formulated to block water, and water-soluble stains like those from markers, ink, food and nicotine in just one coat. And because it is an interior/exterior or primer-sealer stain killer, it's great for trapping tannins and preventing bleed-through from high tannin content wood like cedar and redwood. Tip from the Pros: For quick touch up of water and other common overhead stains, consider using a vertical aerosol like COVERS UPTIME Sealing Ceiling Paint. It matches most acoustic ceiling tiles, so it's great when you need to cover a spot or two. 4. After the primer has dried, follow the primer with two coats of your desired top coat. For more information on Zinsser's complete line of primers or for more helpful home improvement "tips" visit www.zinsser.com. Or call 732-469-8100.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Driveways need fixing, too

(MS) With the home-improvement craze more popular than ever, a commonly overlooked area is one homeowners use each and every day: driveways. While patios or decks are more seasonal features of most homes, driveways are put to use 365 days a year. Still, many homeowners don't list driveways high on their driveway home improvement priority list, which isn't good. A driveway that's not maintained properly can eventually force homeowners to dig deep into their wallets for repairs. For residents of colder climates, water that gets through the cracks in an asphalt driveway can freeze. The resulting expansion and contraction will form heaves (essentially upward swells in the asphalt) in the driveway's surface, leading to bigger cracks and eventually ruining the driveway altogether. While the consequences aren't quite as severe in warmer climates, water that seeps through a cracked driveway in such climates will eventually cause even bigger cracks. Even owners also need to consider the potential damage to their vehicles, as well as the likelihood of their children getting hurt by playing in a poorly maintained driveway. With all of those compelling reasons, resealing a damaged driveway should move higher up your list of fix-ups. Such a job can be performed without professional assistance by simply adhering to the following tips.

Be aware the weather: Resealing a driveway can't be done in a single day. Rather, it's a process that takes a few days to complete properly. Also, it's a job that cannot be done in the rain, so make sure you check the weather and go ahead with your project when you've been assured there's no rain in the forecast. Clean up first: The first step of the resealing process is to clean your driveway. This can be done with a thorough sweeping or with a light sweep followed by a power-washing. Most home-improvement chains and even some grocery stores

rent out power washers. Buying one yourself actually comes with an applicator you won't use if you don't use it nearly enough to make it worth the cost. Once you've thoroughly swept or washed your driveway, apply asphalt sealant. This will soften its surface, making it easier for water to seep through. Fill the cracks: Once the driveway's been cleaned, it's time to fill the cracks to reseal. It's especially important if the weather forecast isn't calling for rain. Ineffective, sealer needs to dry thoroughly. Different sealers require different tools, so whichever type you choose, make sure you have the right tool to apply the sealer. Once you've finished and the sealer has dried, your driveway will be as good as new. And more importantly, you'll have significantly improved your property at very little cost.



Photo courtesy of Metro Service. Though often overlooked, repairing a driveway is an important home improvement.

to caulking a shower, and buying one yourself actually comes with an applicator very similar to a caulking gun. Fix and holes: Holes in the driveway, which are more of an eyesore than an actual problem, can be fixed with cold patch, a substance sold at most home-improvement stores. Made up of asphalt that's been premixed with aggregate, cold patch should be packed tightly into each hole and then allowed to settle overnight. Start resealing: Once you're ready to reseal, it's especially important if the weather forecast isn't calling for rain. Ineffective, sealer needs to dry thoroughly. Different sealers require different tools, so whichever type you choose, make sure you have the right tool to apply the sealer. Once you've finished and the sealer has dried, your driveway will be as good as new. And more importantly, you'll have significantly improved your property at very little cost.

Tax Credit is just the beginning stage of Cool Metal Roof Systems' Appeal

(MS) As energy-conscious consumers look for new ways to save on heating and cooling bills, Cool Roofing Division. The energy-saving "cool" roof pigments reflect a greater amount of the sun's infrared radiation, which accounts for more than half the solar energy striking a roof's surface. Cool Roof coating systems, which are developed by BASF Corporation's Cool Roofing Division. The energy-saving "cool" roof pigments reflect a greater amount of the sun's infrared radiation, which accounts for more than half the solar energy striking a roof's surface. Cool Roof coating systems, which are developed by BASF Corporation's Cool Roofing Division. The energy-saving "cool" roof pigments reflect a greater amount of the sun's infrared radiation, which accounts for more than half the solar energy striking a roof's surface. Cool Roof coating systems, which are developed by BASF Corporation's Cool Roofing Division. The energy-saving "cool" roof pigments reflect a greater amount of the sun's infrared radiation, which accounts for more than half the solar energy striking a roof's surface.

the home. Beyond energy savings, cool roof technology also increases the life expectancy of the roof. Because less heat is absorbed, the roof surface undergoes less expansion and contraction, which extends the roof life and produces even more cost savings. Metal roofing is also recognized for offering a number of other benefits. Cool Roofing noted, "Metal roofing offers excellent fire resistance, light weight and exceptional durability." he said. Today's metal roofing systems also offer outstanding wind resistance, thanks to innovative new designs that interlock adjacent panels for added strength. And the advanced new coatings also provide superior resistance to corrosion and fading. The durability of metal roofing systems has enabled Custom-Bilt Metals to back its roofs with a lifetime warranty, Chivore noted, adding, "We market them un-

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