



The Common Hidden Costs of Maintaining Your Natural Wood

Maintaining your natural wood can be costly using conventional methods. Often people are surprised by the “hidden costs” that they aren’t aware of when considering applying a preservative product to their wood.

The most common hidden costs are:

1. The cost of labor
2. The cost of labor to remove previous treatment
3. The cost of poor workmanship
4. The cost of poor quality products

1) The Cost of Labor

The most overlooked aspect of choosing a natural wood product is the cost of labor associated with the application of the product or the cost of labor associated with routine maintenance of the product. Because of this, I think it is helpful to look at maintenance costs using this simple formula:

$$\text{Total maintenance costs} = \text{cost per square foot per year (labor and materials)}$$

Things that may increase costs:

1. Two-coat applications
2. Difficulty protecting surrounding areas and surfaces.
3. Necessity to keep an absolutely dirt and dust-free surface so that the product can adhere or penetrate adequately
4. A drying process that subjects the surface to the potential to be hurt by such things as dust and dirt, exposure to water (rain), foot traffic that can mar the finish
5. Mildew-inducing products and environments. (Plant oils like linseed and tung oil are a food source for mold and mildew growth) the removal of mold and mildew as well as the removal of the black staining it causes can be an extremely difficult problem to correct.
6. Extremely hard-drying surface products. (These products create an extremely challenging situation in regards to reapplications because in order to achieve a desirable aesthetic appearance you must completely remove the previous application. The harder the finish, the harder it is to remove the next time around. OR... subsequent applications further exacerbate a splotchy, uneven and ever uglier appearance. Removal of these hard drying surface products can be done a few different ways. All of which are very costly.

2) Removal of Previous/Existing Finishes

Removal Method: Power Sanding

Negative Consequences:

- Extremely labor intensive
- Creates a huge amount of dust and dirt that gets all over everything.
- Can flatten the ends of the wood cell tubes thereby inhibiting the absorption of a stain.
- Can fill up the ends of the cell tubes with saw dust and inhibit the absorption of a stain.
- Can cause other labor issues such as setting nails or screws as to not have them sticking up above the surface to be sanded.
- Sanding the galvanized layer off of screws and thus allowing them to leave unsightly rust marks.

Removal Method: Pressure washing

Negative Consequences:

- Extremely labor intensive
- Can necessitate the use of a more costly to operate hot water generating unit
- Can require additional use of difficult to handle and very costly chemical strippers.

Removal Method: Sand Blasting

Negative Consequences:

- Can be very difficult to keep sand from getting into places you do not want it.
- Requires costly equipment
- Creates an extensive mess
- Can severely splinter or mar a wood surface.

3) The Cost of Poor Workmanship

This can make an otherwise decent product fail or perform way below normal parameters. Can require more frequent applications and thus add to the cost of labor and materials cost per square foot per year. Can induce problems that require extensive amounts of effort to rectify that had it been done correctly in the first place would not have occurred at all. Diminution of the aesthetic value of the wood and can diminish actual property value as well.

4) Poor Quality of Product Being Used

Costs associated with this include not only the waste of labor expenses but also the deferred cost of replacement costs because it may entirely fail to protect the wood. Can require more frequent applications and thus add to the cost of labor and materials cost per square foot per year. Diminution of the aesthetic value of the wood and can diminish actual property value as well.

Make sure you are using a Certified Contractor who is trained in applying Boodge Company products and you will greatly reduce and even eliminate some of the hidden costs. Better yet, treat your new wood with Boodge Products from the start and you will never encounter hidden costs 2 through 4.

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