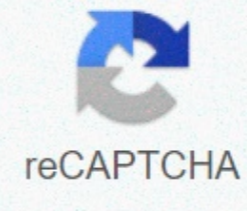




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## Transparent vs translucent stain

Exterior stains, or more specifically Exterior Wood Stains, are used to change the natural color of wood. There are four main categories of exterior stains: Semi-Transparent Semi-Transparent Semi-Solid Translucent Following is an example of each: Pine treated raw pressure (without stains) Pressure treated pine with translucent stains (Sikkens SRD Natural Oak) Pressure treated pine with semi-transparent stains (semi-transparent stains Benjamin Moore ArborCoat Natural Cedartone) Pressure treated pine with semi solid stains (Benjamin Moore ArborCoat Natural Cedartone) As can be seen , wood is most visible when using translucent stains and becomes less so that when you move from semi-transparent to solid stains. It is important to note a few things about exterior stains: Color is important. The type of pigment (referred to as dye) used to achieve the color of the given stain is very important. Not all dyes are created equal. Some hold on to the sun's UV rays much better than others. That is why most manufacturers have a more limited choice of colors for stains versus exterior home paint. You might ask, Why does exterior paint use dyes that should not be used in stains? That is a more complex answer that has to do with actual coating chemistry and will be discussed in future articles. Don't assume your interior stains can be used outside. By far, this is the most common mistake made with wood stains. Usually, customers will come to us looking for the best exterior finish they can find. Then they told us, I've stained my door with (enter the name of the product here). In this case it is a product intended for interior use. We unfortunately had to tell them that even the best exterior finishing clearly can't protect interior stains from fading under a clear exterior finish. The obvious final solution itself will survive well (although not as well as if the right system has been used), but the stain will slowly fade. So, if customers intend to continue with the proper exterior product system, they should disarm the surface and restart it within a few months after the stain begins to fade. The relative performance of exterior stains is as follows: Solid Stain &gt; Semi-Solid Stain &gt; Semi-Transparent Stain &gt; Translucent (with solid stains requiring less maintenance intervals than translucent stains). This of course assumes you choose from a brand of stains of the same caliber. So know that you may give up long-term performance to achieve a certain aesthetic. Not all exterior surfaces are created equal. Just because the stain is exterior rated doesn't mean used in all exterior applications. The least demanding exterior applications are vertical surfaces (fences, siding, etc.), while the most demanding are horizontal surfaces (decks, patios, handrail surfaces, etc.). Keep in mind the two biggest enemies of the exterior finish are sun (UV rays) and humidity. The more exposure finishes get to one or both of these, the shorter the finish life will be. That said, let's go to four types of exterior stains. Translucent stains are most similar to the aesthetics provided by the stain wiping the interior. They offer the richest and deepest color choices of the four types of stains, and they offer the highest visibility of the underlying wood (i.e. they don't cover the wood as much as other types of stains). True translucent stains, such as cetol sikkens exterior stain line, use a very special dye that gives the deepest and richest look available and it cannot be achieved by other types of stains. Keep in mind future maintenance coats will continue to darken the surface and slowly cover the wood as you add more color with each maintenance coat. Semi-transparent stains offer a much wider color palette than translucent stains. They cover the wood little more than translucent stains, but the wood can still be seen. Like translucent stains, keep in mind that every time you apply a refresher/maintenance coat, you will further cover the wood as you add more color each time the coat is applied. Nonetheless, Benjamin Moore offers a clear treatment coat that can be used to prevent this from happening. Semi-solid stains are the same as semi-transparent stains only they have more body/color so offer better protection, but cover the wood more than semi-transparent stains. Like translucent and semi-transparent stains, every time you add a refresher/maintenance coat, you will increasingly cover the wood. With semi-solid it is likely that the wood will be covered after adding one semi-solid stain maintenance coat. To help avoid this happening, Benjamin Moore has developed a clear maintenance coat, as mentioned above. Solid stains, as the name suggests, completely cover the surface of the wood as if you were using traditional paint. The main difference between solid stains and paint is that solid stains are thinner than paint (think consistency of shampoo versus molasses for example). As a result, solid stains penetrate into the surface of the wood better than paint. And although you can not see the surface of the wood itself, you will still see the grain and the texture of the wood. Another benefit of thinner solid stains is that if a small amount of moisture occurs to get into the wood, solid stains can breathe better than paint, thus allowing moisture to slowly escape and not get stuck under the stain. This enhanced breathing ability helps reduce the likelihood of solid stains peeling away from wood. We hope this is beneficial for you. Stay forward with future topics, and please contact us if we can help with your next project! Also, please let us know if there are specifics You want us to discuss in the future – we'll love your feedback. Thanks for reading! Note: always read the manufacturer's product labels, technical datasheets (TDS) and Material Security Datasheets (MSDS or SDS) thoroughly before using the product. Information manufacturers always take precedent over any information provided by Hunter Coatings. by Andy Stanush The difference lies in the amount of pigment in each. Transparent stains, although they appear obvious, have some pigment in them for UV protection. Semi-transparent stains have more pigment, but still allow some wood grains to be shown. Solid stains are basically like paint. They hide most of the characters of wood, but they offer the best protection from moisture and UV rays. The general rule is that the more pigment in the stain, the better the protection it will do. If I'm looking for colored wood paint that allows the most wood grains and textures to be displayed. Should I look for translucent or semi-transparent wood stains? Do these two terms make a difference or do they refer essentially to the same thing? Please help me, thank you. There is a difference between wood paint and wood stains. It sounds like you have patri wood, or want to tarnish the wood, and then see that through the end of the final protector. It's been a while since I've been in a hardware store, but I think you're looking for a clear or matte varnish (or other protective sealant - I remember seeing some pretty sophisticated layers). Clear will have a shiny finish and reflect light like glass, while matte will still let wood grains and colors show through without reflecting so much light. Glossy and matte both reflect qualities in art such as photography, or can sometimes show (also) textures, as in paint. I don't think they are used with wood stain products, although they can be used with varnish and varnish products. Translucent light means letting light through, as glass that will allow the transmission of light or shadow (which is simply less light). It contrasts with semi-transparent glass, allows limited ability to see actual shapes and images, and with transparent ability, good or perfect for viewing shapes and images. Regarding paints and stains for wood, the first is more opaque. The latter, however, can also vary in that aspect. There are less transparent pigmented stains and more transparent dye stains, the first is usually more protective and the latter shows more detail of wood. Some types of pigmented stains are more opaque than others, or there are stain combinations of dyes plus pigments with intermediate qualities. So far I know, the use of translucent in this industry varies and can mean the same as semi-transparent or can mean a little more opaque than that (that is, less transparent than what a semi-transparent would be). Transparent Transparent see stains clearly, very lightly without pigment. There is a difference between wood paint and wood stains. It sounds like you have patri wood, or want to tarnish the wood, and then see that through the end of the final protector. It's been a while since I've been in a hardware store, but I think you're looking for a clear or matte varnish (or other protective sealant - I remember seeing some pretty sophisticated layers). Clear will have a shiny finish and reflect light like glass, while matte will still let wood grains and colors show through without reflecting so much light. Thank you for the paulrobert information; it has explained everything to me but I am still a little confused about the copyright response. You said there was a difference between wood paint and wood stains. As far as I know, they are both liquid, which is applied to the wood so that it gives a certain color. So how can I distinguish between them? I know it kind of introduces a new question but I guess it's still relevant so I don't want to start a new thread on it. My layman's understanding: Stains are used to darken the wood while letting the visual patterns of the wood show through. Paint is opaque and will completely cover the wood. The paint will come in color (white, red, gray, purple, whatever you can think of) while stains generally vary shades of brown. The stain may actually tap the wood, while the paint is layered on it. I'm not sure. My layman's understanding: Stains are used to darken the wood while letting the visual patterns of the wood show through. Paint is opaque and will completely cover the wood. The paint will come in color (white, red, gray, purple, whatever you can think of) while stains generally vary shades of brown. The stain may actually tap the wood, while the paint is layered on it. I'm not sure. Hi Infininja, thank you very much for the clear explanation. So the paint is meant to completely change the color of the surface of the wood, while the stain only changes the way the wood looks a little. I think I finally saw the light. Thank you all for your help. Infininja is right. The paint forms a fairly opaque coating designed to cover. In fact, if it doesn't cover enough, a second coat can be used to make it look better. Once dry, there is a layer that, if you change your mind and want to see what is underneath, you have to strip off (with solvent), sand off, chip off, or scrape. Although you can also use one or two coats or stain applications, it is designed more to sink into wood material. Even this type of pigment has pigment material, much thinner, sinking deeper into the grain. It's not something you can scratch, like paint. (Keep in mind that the word paint is often used cheaply if you're going to stain your wooden deck, for example, you're going to paint it (or brush it)). Last edited: Sep 25, 2009 Thank you paulrobert information: it has explained everything to me but I am still a little confused about the copyright response. You said there was a difference between wood paint and wood stains. As far as I know, they are both liquid, which is applied to the wood so that it gives a certain color. So how can I distinguish between them? I know it kind of introduces a new question but I guess it's still relevant so I don't want to start a new thread on it. As I slept, Infininja and paulrobert did a good job of explaining. When I made my comment, I thought you might already know the difference (and wasn't sure how far into the paint and stains I had to go in answering your question). One thing to note about the paint and its blur... after you apply it, you can not tell if the paint covers wood, metal, plastic or cement. It's a layer, like ice on a cake, just less delicious. When you apply a stain, it enters the wood, but does not offer protection from the elements. After staining the wood, you will usually close it and protect it using varnish, shells or other layers that sit on top such as paint, but which are transparent or semi-transparent so that you can see the beauty of the stained wood underneath. These sealants are usually available in gloss or matte finishes, such as glass for image frames. You must log in or register to reply here. Here.

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