

A photograph of a modern outdoor patio. In the foreground, there is a wooden deck with a large, square, rusted metal fire pit filled with dark stones. To the left, a wooden sofa with white cushions and patterned pillows is visible. To the right, a wooden armchair with a white cushion and a patterned pillow is shown. In the background, a tall wooden fence and a large, leafy green bush are visible. The sky is overcast.

# Care & Maintenance

GUIDE

2025.02



ARBOR  
WOOD co

THERMALLY MODIFIED WOOD





Thermally modified wood is a popular choice for outdoor applications due to its enhanced durability, stability, and resistance to decay. To ensure the longevity and beauty of your thermally modified wood products, it is important to follow proper care and maintenance practices. This guide provides you with essential tips and guidelines for maintaining and preserving the natural beauty of your thermally modified wood.

#### **STORAGE & HANDLING**

Arbor Wood Co. products should be stored indoors whenever possible and/or remain covered with a waterproof tarp until ready for installation. Boards must be stacked uniformly and elevated off the ground a minimum of 4". Avoid exposure to sunlight/UV as it can cause the boards to become lighter in tone. Always remember to handle with care when moving the product.

Arbor Wood has a lower moisture content and reduced expansion/contraction than standard wood, but it is still a good practice to ensure the wood has properly acclimated to local site conditions. It is recommended to have Arbor Wood Co. products on site for a minimum of one week prior to installation to acclimatize to the moisture and humidity of the installation environment. It is best to avoid storing materials on-site for prolonged periods prior to installation unless stored indoors in a dry location.

#### **MAINTAINING A CLEAN SURFACE**

It is important to ensure the surface of your wood remains clean. Black surface stains can be caused by dirt, debris, pollen and other airborne and microscopic elements resting on the surface of the material. Certain environments provide exceptional growing conditions for mold and fungus, conditions that often fall within, but are not limited to shaded decks or siding. This does not impact the integrity of the wood but it does mean you should be clearing the surface of your siding or deck more often and taking additional preventative care considering surrounding conditions. It is best to sweep off debris regularly and wash with a standard garden hose. If stubborn dirt and debris remain a soft bristle brush and water or deck cleaner can help.



## COLOR & WEATHERING

Thermal modification changes the naturally occurring sugars in the wood, resulting in beautiful, rich, brown tones which extend through the full thickness of the material. Since Arbor Wood is still a natural product it is subject to variations in weight, density, color, and grain patterns. In an exterior environment, unfinished Arbor Wood products will move to a beautiful silver/gray in 12-18 months. This does not impact the performance characteristics of the wood itself. The speed of this graying process depends on the intensity of exposure to environmental elements like the sun and rain combined with the type of application. Regular maintenance with a penetrating oil will reduce checking and cracking and will extend the life expectancy of the product.



Arbor Wood Ash : Raw



Arbor Wood Ash : Raw - Aged 6-12 mos.



Arbor Wood Ash : Raw - Fully Weathered

To maintain the original color we recommend applying a penetrating oil such as Cutek Extreme® along with a UV Colortone as clear oil finishes alone are not UV resistant. A light sanding or application of Cutek Wood Reviver will remove the surface silvering and restore the original wood tones. Please note, product color and factory applied finishes are not covered under the product warranty.

## STAINS & LEACHING DUE TO WATER

In the case of modified species, most of the tannins are removed during the thermal modification process. Some residual particulates can be found present in small doses. This is a short-term issue as they will deplete over time. Tannins (polyphenols) in particular are likely to react with alkaline surfaces such as concrete to form an unsightly red/brown stain. If left alone to weather, the level of extractive runoff will reduce and result in a significant reduction in ongoing staining over time. Chemical cleaning and removal of these stains is a simple and easy process with wood cleaner like CUTEK® Quickclean.

## NATURAL AGING

If a silver patina look is desired there is really no action needed. Left natural, Arbor Wood Co. Products will develop a silver patina over the course of the first 6-18 months after installation. The speed of this graying process depends on the intensity of exposure to environmental elements like the sun and rain combined with the type of application, for example, due to its horizontal exposure, decking tends to weather faster than siding. Another option is to finish with just a clear oil with no UV additive. This method will help protect and condition the wood while still allowing it to move to grey. It is best to coat all sides of the board prior to installation with an additional application on the exposed face after installation.

## MAINTAINING COLOR TONE

If left unfinished, Arbor Wood will gradually turn gray under the influence of sunlight and elements like rain and snow. The grey color does not affect the wood's performance or resistance to decay. Note that clear oil without a colortone does not prevent natural greying, but will help slow down the weathering process and reduce checking and cracks in the wood.



To maintain the original color you must apply a finish that has UV protection in it and is specifically formulated for use with thermally modified wood (see list below for some recommended products). This is typically in the form of a color tone or color tint additive. It is best to coat all sides of the board prior to installation with an additional application on the exposed face after installation. Be sure to allow proper time between applications to allow the oil to fully penetrate and dry. Color will need to be maintained based on preference. In general decking will require maintenance every 1-3 years and siding every 3-5 years.

1. CUTEK® Extreme + CUTEK® UV Colortone - CUTEK® Extreme by itself does not contain UV protection
2. Penofin® Architectural Grade
3. Deckwise® WiseCoat® Premium Sealer

Regardless of the finish you choose, apply it evenly using a brush, roller, or spray gun. Follow the manufacturer's recommended application method and coat thickness. Ensure you cover all surfaces, edges, and end grain to protect the wood uniformly. Remember to always follow the specific instructions provided by the manufacturer of the finish you choose, as different products may have varying application techniques and drying times.

### **BRINGING COLOR BACK**

A light sanding or application of a deck cleaner can be used to remove the surface silvering and restore the original wood tones. We do not recommend power washing as it has the potential to damage the wood fibers. The use of a deck brightener product can also help revive and prepare the wood for application of finish. Allow the wood to completely dry before applying a finish with a UV inhibitor (see above).

### **BRNSH & ELMNT LINES**

Our Brnsh and Elmnt lines come pre-finished with a custom oil blend and will require refinishing after 5-10+ years depending on preference as well as climate, weather, and exposure. Additional finish for touch ups or refinishing can be purchased through Arbor Wood Co. Contact [sales@arborwoodco.com](mailto:sales@arborwoodco.com) to place an order for additional custom finish. When possible, avoid refinishing small sections and try to refinish the entire wall or larger sections with natural breaks.

For more questions on the maintenance of your Arbor Wood Co.  
Thermally modified wood please visit [arborwoodco.com](http://arborwoodco.com)  
or send us a message at [hello@arborwoodco.com](mailto:hello@arborwoodco.com).



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