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Guidelines for Oiling Merbau

Wilmaplex Merbau has a high degree of natural durability and resistance to both termites and weathering.

When staining Merbau Timber for exterior use, it is essential to choose products specifically formulated for outdoor applications and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Staining your Merbau Timber will ensure you enhance and maintain the products appearance and ensure longevity of your product for years to come against the harsh Australian climate.

It is strongly recommended that Merbau is left to weather for 7-14 days, depending on the climate and conditions.

What is Merbau?

Merbau is a South East Asian rainforest hardwood that is also known as 'Kwila' & is commonly used for decking, fences, flooring and paneling.

The natural oils in **Merbau** help prevent cracking, splitting and shrinkage while also allowing it to endure high temperatures and climates.

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Initial correct preparation and application of surface coatings, followed by a simple, regular maintenance will help your Merbau last and look good for a lifetime.

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR OIL: Water-Based or Non-Water Based.

Water-Based Oil penetrates the timber and forms a thin film on the surface. This film can provide additional protection but may alter the appearance of the timber slightly. It is important to properly prepare the surface before applying water-based oils to ensure adhesion and prevent peeling.

Non-Water Based Oil deeply penetrates the timber while preserving its natural appearance. They soak into the pores of the timber without forming a film on the surface, allowing the timber to breathe and maintain its natural texture.

STEP 2

PREPARE THE SURFACE FOR OILING: Merbau is a natural timber with a high content of tannin. It is highly recommended that you use a tannin blocking primer to reduce leeching which should be applied prior to oiling. You can use tannin remover or deck cleaning products to wash out any stains caused by tannin leaching.

Thoroughly clean the timber using a deck cleaner, by lightly applying the cleaning solution to the timber with a stiff bristled decking brush. Let it sit for 30 minutes, rinse thoroughly and repeat. Allow the timber to dry completely.

STEP 3

APPLY THE OIL: Work along the whole grain of the timber as stopping in the middle of the timber may cause patchiness.

Once you have coated your timber, let the oil dry as per manufacturer's instructions. It is recommended a minimum of 2 coats to maintain durability and protection from the elements. On the second coat use less oil as the timber will not absorb as much.

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