



# Timber Interiors

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

# A Guide to Interior Timber Maintenance

Over the years timber has gained wide popularity in architecture for its natural beauty and warmth, but as with all materials, timber needs maintenance to stay in good shape. Scuffs, scratch marks and fading are ways that timber can be damaged, potentially detracting from its visual appeal.

This guide outlines key steps for maintaining timber linings, including cleaning, recoating, and inspection procedures to help you protect your investment and preserve the beauty of your interiors.

## Why Maintenance Matters

Unlike external timber, interior timber is protected from UV exposure and weather, but it's still susceptible to environmental changes such as humidity, air conditioning, and occasional wear. Over time, the surface can become dull or dry-looking, especially in high-traffic areas.

A regular maintenance routine helps:

- Retain timber's natural colour and finish
- Prevent drying, cracking or uneven fading
- Ensure long-term performance of the timber lining system
- Meet warranty and compliance requirements

## Coatings and Finishes

Sculptform supplies interior timber products with a variety of finishes, including clear oils and matte coatings. These products are designed to stabilise the timber and slow the effects of moisture movement. Over time, it's normal for the coating to fade or for the timber to slightly change tone. This is part of the natural aging process and can be refreshed with reapplication.

Each project may have a different coating system, so it's important to refer to the product data sheet supplied at the time of specification.

## Preventative Measures

- Avoid direct sunlight on internal timber applications. UV rays coming through windows and onto internal timber surfaces can cause clear finishes to peel and degrade. Please seek our advice when internal timber is exposed to direct sunlight.
- Avoid areas with extreme humidity as moisture typically causes timber to expand.
- Timber should not come into contact with staining liquids such as wine, strong chemicals, strong highly alkaline or acidic detergent cleaners, and metals. This will chemically discolour the timber, and may not be reversible requiring the batten be removed and replaced.

## Second Oiling - After Installation

Sculptform applies an initial first coating at the factory, and the timber is wet-stacked prior to dispatch.

After installation, a second coat should be applied within two weeks to six months of installation. The timber's surface should appear "thirsty" at this point.

This should be done towards the end of the project, once wet works are complete and may require a light wash. Prior to applying this second coat to the front and side faces of the battens, the timber must be completely dry.

Recommended application rate is 10 – 20 sq.meters/litre.

## Maintenance and Cleaning

Maintenance is a conditioned based approach, and the timber should be inspected annually in an internal application. The inspection process is subjective, and coatings should be applied as frequently as required to rejuvenate the timber and retain its colour longer. **A maintenance log of the six monthly inspections must be provided for warranty purposes.**

Method:

1. Prior to application, ensure correct PPE is used, and correct disposal instructions are followed.
2. A dilution of 1 part soft, pH neutral detergent and 5 parts water may be used to clean the surface. A soft cloth should be used when wiping the surface. Always spot test in a small area to assess the suitability of the detergent solution to be used to clean the timber.
3. Once cleaned, a soft cloth wetted in clean water should be used to do a final wipe of the surface. In case of spills, wipe up immediately with a dry cloth. For persistent marks use a soft damp cloth and wipe in the direction of the timber's natural grain. Avoid hard rubbing and scrubbing.
4. The timber should be allowed to dry.
5. Apply coat evenly with a brush, paint pad or roller onto the timber battens to the front and side faces of the battens.
6. All rags and water used for cleaning up should be disposed of appropriately.
7. A regular sweep with a soft static mop to avoid the build-up of dust over time is recommended.

## Disposal

- DO NOT allow wash water from cleaning or process equipment to enter drains. It may be necessary to collect all wash water for treatment before disposal.
- In all cases, disposal to sewer may be subject to local laws and regulations and these should be considered first. When in doubt, contact the State Land Waste Authority for disposal.

## Replacement of Sculptform system

For replacement of damaged battens please [contact Sculptform](#) directly