



When other timber coatings fail
professionals turn to Cutek

FACTSHEET No 3 Cutek LowVOC Oil

Cutek LowVOC Advanced Timber and Engineered Wood Protection

Cutek LowVOC is your answer to the search for an environmentally friendly protector for wood. It looks and performs the same as **Cutek CD50**, but has a lower volatile organic compound (VOC) content, meaning it's your choice for achieving a green star project

The main function of **Cutek LowVOC** is to minimise warping, cupping and splitting, which means exterior wood lasts longer. Choose a colourtone for added UV protection and a warm natural finish.

Cutek LowVOC is **NOT** suitable for use on bamboo or acetylated wood.

- When you need to achieve a green star rating
- Great as a clear for a natural silver patina or colourtoned to retain the freshly oiled look
- Protects from the effects of moisture – minimises warping, cupping and splitting



Understanding colourtones

It's important to understand that **CUTEK** is a unique penetrating oil system designed to enhance the natural colour and grain of wood. **CUTEK** is sold as a clear oil which can be used to protect the wood from moisture and moisture related movement such as cupping, warping and splitting. Using just the clear oil will protect the wood, providing stability and structural integrity while allowing it to naturally lighten to produce a silver weathered patina over time. The soft natural lightening and silvering of the wood represents a low care option and is becoming an increasingly popular way to leave wood in weather exposed settings.

Wood projects using clear **CUTEK** oil that have silvered can easily be returned back to the wood's original colour using **ProClean** and high pressure washing followed by further applications of **CUTEK** clear oil.

However, if you desire to maintain the original colour of the wood then you need to purchase a Colourtone suited to your selected wood which will further enhance the natural colour and grain and help to maintain its "natural" colour over a longer period of time.

What to expect when using colourtone

Most wood care products on the market leave a build up of material on the surface of the wood. In the short term this provides more colour, but in the long term the finish can be prone to peeling and flaking, which requires time and money to repair.

The **Cutek** system is unique as it will fade over time rather than peel or flake. The initial **Cutek Colourtone** build on new smooth wood projects only offers subtle amounts of pigment that enhance the wood. Timber that's exposed fully to the weather will lighten faster as the wood acclimatises over the first six months. A follow up application after this initial weathering period will provide much greater **Colourtone** build as the wood becomes rougher and more open.

How to increase colour build on new wood

New wood is milled smooth and often has a mill glaze which will greatly restrict the initial colour build. Better results can be achieved by creating a rougher surface and preparing the wood using **Cutek Proclean** in combination with a high pressure washer. Sanding the new wood to 80 grit will give even better results as it removes mill glaze and creates a much rougher surface which will enable higher colour build. Note...The rougher the surface of the wood, the greater the colour build and durability. Rough sawn or heavy brushed wood profiles will take more oil and colour so much bolder colour contrast can be achieved. The amount of mill glaze if any that is present on any job can vary significantly depending on species density, and machining method used. Note, sanded surfaces should be vacuumed or washed thoroughly to remove all loose wood and dust.

Before you apply



Surface preparation is essential

In order for **Cutek LowVOC** to function properly it's essential that it diffuses deeply into the timber. Anything that might prevent penetration such as an existing coating, retained moisture, or not leaving sufficient time between coats must be avoided or corrected before applying.

Preparation may involve thorough sanding or stripping to completely remove any previous film forming coating. If stripping is required, we recommend using **Cutek CD33 Naked** and **Cutek Proclean** to prepare the surface for **Cutek** oils.

Before using **Cutek LowVOC**, it is vital to ensure the wood is clean, dry (moisture content less than 17%) and has no existing paint, oil or stain.

Always remember that unless you want a clear finish that will lighten/silver off in a few months, it is important to mix a **Cutek Colourtone** into the oil before use.

Make sure you prepare your timber before applying **Cutek LowVOC** in order to get the best results.

How to apply

New Wood

Ensure that timber to be coated is clean and dry. **Cutek LowVOC** can be used on treated timber, however wood with mill glaze, or pre-treated with wax and polymer processes such as LOSP may require cleaning first with **Cutek Proclean**.

Old, or Previously Coated Wood

Old, dirty, stained or weathered timber should be prepared by first applying **Cutek Proclean** restoration agent, then power rinsing with a high-pressure washer set to under 750 p.s.i. (50 bar), with a fan jet pattern to avoid damage to the wood fibre. Once the timber is thoroughly dry, apply two coats of **Cutek LowVOC**.

Wood previously coated with a film forming product such as stains, linseed oil, paint, polyurethane, etc., must first be restored with **Cutek CD33 Naked** paint stripper and **Cutek Proclean** prior to the application of **Cutek LowVOC**. This process can be complex, so view the videos on this website for more information.

The results achieved from restoration are dramatic and rewarding – the original natural colour and beauty of wood can be restored.

Application Technique

Before you get started

Before you begin, note the hazards and precautions on our website and the can labelling, and ensure that you use the correct safety equipment as detailed in the Safety Data Sheet.

Step by step application process

Avoid contact with plants, shrubs, trees and waterways. For best results, one coat of **Cutek LowVOC** should be applied to all faces of the wood prior to installing, with a second coat applied to the top surface once the first coat is completely dry. Penetration time varies significantly, depending on species, temperature, porosity, and moisture content of the wood. Thicker sections such as post, beams and logs will require additional coats, as **Cutek LowVOC** has a cumulative effect in the wood.

Apply each coat evenly with brush, paintpad or roller. When using **Cutek Colourtone** it is essential that the container holding the oil be stirred frequently both before and during use. Two or three thin coats on finished wood and hardwoods are better than one or two thick coats.

Wood must feel completely dry and non-greasy before application of the second coat.

Cleanup

Equipment may be cleaned with soap and water or turps. Oily rags and other oily materials may cause combustion fires. Immediately after use you MUST (1) spread out all oily materials outside to dry, by flattening them out to their full size in an airy spot at temperatures above 4 degrees Celsius, or (2) Wash them thoroughly with water and detergent and rinse. Remove all oil from all clothes, tools, rags and any other materials contacted during use or as a result of an accidental spill. All wash water is to be disposed of properly.

Coverage

These figures represent typical averages for common decking and cladding timbers such as Western Red Cedar, Pine, Spotted Gum, Jarrah, Ironbark, Ipe, Tiger deck, Cumaru and other Exotics, Thermal wood etc.

Maintenance

Cutek LowVOC will gradually fade over time rather than peel, split or crack, so the rejuvenation of timber coated with **Cutek CD50** is a simple fast and cost-effective process.

Cutek LowVOC should be reapplied when the wood is no longer beading water, or as frequently as necessary to retain the natural beauty and colour of the wood. Clear **Cutek CD50** coated timbers require maintenance less frequently than colourtoned **Cutek CD50** coated timbers.

Recoat time varies widely according to many factors including the age and porosity of the wood, species, situation and exposure to the weather. Typically, horizontal exterior smooth surfaces such as pool decks and handrails may require coating every 6 months to two years, while vertical rough sawn cladding may require maintenance less frequently.