

LikNuWood

Sodium Concentrate

DESCRIPTION: LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate wood cleaner & brightener is a sodium based powdered concentrate that is mixed with water. LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate is an environmentally friendly product that safely cleans, brightens, and restores the natural beauty of exterior and interior wood. Unlike chlorine bleach based cleaners, LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate is bio-degradable and will not harm wood fibers, pets, grass, or most plants.

USES: LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate removes dirt, grime, mildew stains, previous loose coatings (not paint) and weathered graying from horizontal and vertical wood surfaces. LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate is recommended for surface preparation prior to application finishes and stains. For best results use Men-Wood Natural Oil Finish.

NOTE: LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate will darken Redwood. The California Redwood Association requires a solution of Oxalic Acid in water to clean and brighten Redwood. For all redwood, cedar & cypress applications use LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate

BENEFITS:

- Restores the natural beauty of wood without that bleached out look.
 - Contains no acid or chlorine bleach.
 - Safe for plants & animals-Biodegradable
- Cleaning with LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate allows Men-Wood stain to penetrate the wood 20% deeper which provides greater protection.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: For new wood- Use 6oz. (3/4 cup) of LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate with each gallon of water. For weathered and stained wood - Use 1-1/2 cups of LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate with each gallon of water. For maximum cleaning ambient temperature should

be 50 degrees or above.

STEP 1 * MIX: Mix with water and stir thoroughly until powder is mostly dissolved. Powder dissolves faster in warm water. Solution should be used within six hours of mixing.

STEP 2 * APPLY: **Horizontal Surfaces** Dampen surface with water before application. Apply LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate solution with sprayer, brush, or mop, working on small areas, (20-30 sq. ft.) at a time.

Vertical Surfaces - Dampen surface with water before application. Apply with a pump up type hand sprayer, working on small areas at a time. **Begin at the bottom and work to the top.**

STEP 3 * BRUSH IF NECESSARY:

Horizontal Surfaces - Let solution stand approximately 10-15 minutes, keeping area wet with additional LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate solution. Thoroughly scrub with a stiff, short bristle broom or brush if necessary.

Vertical Surfaces - Let solution stand approximately 10-15 minutes, keeping surface wet with additional LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate solution. **Solution should be applied from the bottom up to avoid streaking.** LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate will open wood pores. Some raising of wood fibers may occur. Remove raised fibers before applying finish.

STEP 4 * RINSE: Rinse surface thoroughly with a power washer. Rinse from the top and work your way down. Keep your power washer at around 1500 PSI. Repeat steps 2-4 on the next small area. Rinse cleaned area of vertical surfaces as work progresses to avoid streaking. Allow wood surface to thoroughly dry 4 to 6 days (on horizontal surfaces it may take longer) before applying Men-Wood Exterior Finish or water repellent wood finishes. A moisture

meter reading must be 18% or lower (cedar/redwood/cypress should be 12% or less moisture). If reading is higher than 18% wait several days and test again, if reading is at 18% or lower then test with a few drops of water. If water is absorbed rapidly, the surface is ready for product application; if not, wait 2 weeks and test again. "Fill holes with caulking before staining." Heavily weathered or soiled surfaces may require a second application; or use LikNuWood Oxalic Concentrate to remove heavier stains and or water stains.

COVERAGE: One gallon of LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate cleans and restores 150-200 square feet area.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND HANDLING:

Avoid contact with eyes and prolonged skin contact. Harmful if swallowed. Solution will not harm grass and is safe for most plants.

Rinse grass and plants thoroughly with water after exposure. For more information, consult the Material Safety Data Sheet.

Caution: Accumulation of product on ladders, scaffolding, decks, etc. may result in a slippery surface.

PACKAGING: LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate is available in 10lb containers. The 10lb container will yield about 25 gallons.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE:

LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate is not considered hazardous under Department of Transportation regulations. Do not stack boxes more than 4 levels high. Store in cool, dry area. Product will lose it's maximum efficiency after about 1 year.

TECHNICAL SERVICES: Call Men-Wood Coatings, LLC Technical Service Dept. at 517-212-6542 for more information or technical assistance.



Preparing your surface before you apply sealants!

Lack of proper surface preparation is like not washing an old car before you wax it. Surface must be clean, dry and free of all dirt, wax, grease, soot, loose or peeling stains, paint, mold and/or mildew; otherwise you will end up doing the job over again, and experience premature failure of sealant. Warmer temperatures are always preferred for ideal working conditions, but not absolutely necessary. Best temperature ranges for application are between 40° to 90°.

Stripping is not always required. There are four circumstances that may dictate when stripping is necessary:

- ◆ **When there is a film on the wood that will not come off by power washing.**
- ◆ **When there is a build up of old finishes; like paint or varnishes.**
- ◆ **When there is peeling or cracking of old finishes that will not come off by power washing.**
- ◆ **When there is a glazed type of finish on the wood.**

If the old finish is latex or acrylic based, make sure the stripper you use is designed to remove it. Many strippers will work well on oil-based stains and paints, but the latex composition will require a different type of stripper.

If the substrate has had a type of penetrating finish applied to it, or it has never had anything applied to it, or if the existing finish comes off easily, you can skip the stripping process.

Normally log homes will collect dirt on the upper part of the log that curves in toward the house. This can be easily rinsed away. Homes that do not have gutters, or have no vegetation next to the house, will usually have some heavy discoloration along the bottom where rainwater from the roof hits the ground and splashes back up on the surface. Corners are always another area of concern as they receive much more abuse from the weather. They will require more preparation than other areas of the home. Damaging effects from the sun will severely gray down the wood. If your substrate has any or all of these problems, don't worry! They can be fixed!

Bleach and water has been a long-standing recommendation for cleaning dirty wood. It can appear to work quickly and efficiently and it's cheap. However, you know the old adage. "You get what you pay for."

There are many drawbacks to bleaching wood. In fact, bleaching wood can actually damage the substrate, causing further work for the applicator and increasing costs of properly protecting the substrate.

One, bleach can actually destroy the cellulose in the wood when left on the surface too long. **Two**, some researchers say that bleach inhibits the wood's ability to hold a finish. Also, while it appears that the wood is getting cleaner, it still discolors the surface and gives the wood an unnatural washed out look. **Three**, most over the counter bleach solutions will not completely rinse off the substrate. Remember the last time you got bleach on your hands? It's hard to rinse off and wood will soak up a lot more than you hands will. **Four**, household type bleach only remains active for about 15 minutes once it is mixed with water.

If mold and/or mildew is present use: **4 gals warm water, 1 gal pool chlorine, 3 cups TSP** to kill the spores that are growing on the wood, then use **LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate** or **LikNuWood Oxalic Concentrate** as a neutralizer. **LikNuWood Sodium Concentrate** uses a blend of cleaning compounds that will effectively remove UV fade, dirt and grime from the substrate. **LikNuWood Oxalic Concentrate** is great for gray discolored wood including cedar & redwood, and is needed when there are deep stains in the substrate. Both products contain buffers to minimize wood damage and surfactants to help wet the wood quickly allowing it to rinse off completely. When spraying a wall, start from the bottom and work your way up. This will minimize streaks, which can be difficult to remove.

If the wood is just discolored and has no significant areas of mildew, use a milder mixture of **LikNuWood Oxalic Concentrate**. This product contains oxalic acid that brings out the natural tannins in the wood and restores most of its natural color. It is especially good for redwood and cedar. **LikNuWood Oxalic Concentrate** is very effective in removing gray weathered stains, including nail, iron and water stains.

BE CAREFUL! What ever you do, remember to protect your eyes and skin from contact with any chemicals. Read all labels and application guidelines before you begin. This will save you time later. Wet down any plants or shrubs with water. Cover them during the application, then wet them down again as soon as you're done.

Pressure washing is the best way to rinse off a stripper or wood cleaner. However, you must use caution when using them. You can damage the wood, and spray large amounts of water into the home through cracks in the wood. Here are a few pointers for using a pressure washer.

- ◆ **Use no more than 1,500 psi.**
- ◆ **Use one that delivers 3 to 4 gallons per minute.**
- ◆ **Keep the tip at least 12" from the surface. Never use a 0° tip or damage will occur.**
- ◆ **Do not hold sprayer in one place. Keep the wand moving.**
- ◆ **Start the spray with the wand pointed away from the wood, then move it onto the wood.**
- ◆ **Be careful when on ladders because the pressure can push you off. Do not spray skin.**
- ◆ **Be careful not to over spray cracks and corners around windows, doors and between logs.**
- ◆ **Always note that water will come through on the inside. Be prepared with towels & plastic.**
- ◆ **If you damage the wood with the power washer you will see that the surface of the log will look hairy. You can sand off these areas restoring the wood.**

Call us if you have questions

517-212-6542