



When other wood coatings fail
professionals turn to CUTEK®

FACTSHEET No 3 CUTEK® Colourtones

CUTEK® Colourtones Advanced Wood Colour System

- Transparent to enhance not hide the grain and natural colour of wood
- Delays silvering/greying due to sun exposure

We make preserving the beautiful, natural look of wood easy.

CUTEK® EXTREME is sold clear, which protects the wood and helps maintain dimensional stability and allows the wood to age gracefully into a beautiful silver patina on exposure to sunlight. However, if the desire is to retain the natural freshly oiled colour of the chosen wood you can simply add a **CUTEK® Colourtone** to the clear oil. Choose one of our **Colourtones** which have been specifically developed to closely match many popular wood species.

For best results, select a **CUTEK® Colourtone** that stays close to the natural shade of the wood species being protected.



Selecting Colourtones

Our **Colourtone** system is designed to enhance the colour and grain of the selected wood. With this in mind, think about the original wood choice and the colour it most represents. Is it light or dark; golden, brown, red or a combination?

Here are a few common examples to help.

Pine and Eastern White Cedar have light tones - Goldtone, Rustic Gold, and Espresso are good choices.

Western Red Cedar have light to dark browns, reds and greys - Rustic Gold, Cedartone, and Espresso will work well on new smooth wood.

Douglas Fir has orange/red to brown tones - Rustic Gold, Autumntone, and Cedartone will all have an orange/red look on smooth wood.

Changing the original colour of any wood

For horizontal walk on surfaces such as decking, we recommend using a **CUTEK® Colourtone** that is the closest match to the wood selected, rather than attempt to change the colour. This will help reduce colour related maintenance.

For cladding, screening, fences, etc., using a different or darker colour can be a good choice as verticle surfaces are not subject to the high wear that horizontal surfaces are.

Understanding CUTEK® Colourtones

What to expect when using a 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® Colourtone** system is unique as it will fade or erode over time rather than peel or flake.

The initial **CUTEK® Colourtone** build on new smooth wood projects typically only offers subtle amounts of pigment that enhance the wood. The rougher the surface of the wood, the greater the colour build and durability.

In some wood species the first application could dry with an uneven look to the colour, this is due to how **CUTEK® Extreme** penetrates at different rates across the wood. (i.e. heavy grain, or knots vs. smooth sections). The second application with **Colourtone** will even out the look of the colour.

Wood that's exposed fully to the weather will lighten faster as the wood acclimatizes over the first six to twelve 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

New dressed wood is milled smooth and often has a mill glaze (a smooth glossy surface, which is impervious to most coatings) which will greatly restrict the initial colour build. The amount of mill glaze (if any) that is present on any job can vary significantly depending on species density, and machining method used.

Better colour build results can be achieved by preparing the wood using **CUTEK® Proclean** (refer to FactSheet No6 **CUTEK® Proclean**). Sanding the new wood with 80 grit sandpaper will give even better results as it removes mill glaze and creates a much rougher surface which will enable higher colour build. Note: sanded surfaces should be vacuumed or washed thoroughly to remove all loose wood and dust. A high pressure air blower will work as well.

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 a much bolder colour contrast can be achieved.

Even very light coloured wood species can become an almost solid Black, Grey, Red, Brown or Gold if the wood surface is suitably rough and more applications or a higher pigment loading has been added. A much higher build of colour can be achieved which can completely change the original tone of the wood. In some circumstances the **Colourtone** can be doubled to achieve bolder effects.

We advise that you contact us to discuss this option in more detail as we want to ensure you have the best information possible.

Applying CUTEK® EXTREME with Colourtone

One 90mL Colourtone gets added to one 3.6 litre can of **CUTEK® Extreme**.

Five 90mL (or one 450mL) Colourtones get added to one 18.9 litre pail of **CUTEK® Extreme**.

Stir to mix the **Colourtone** well before adding into the clear oil. Ensure all the **Colourtone** is added to the **Extreme** by scraping out the bottom. Stir the oil and **Colourtone** well with a flat stirrer, lifting from the bottom, for about 2 minutes before use, then continue to give a quick stir, lifting from the bottom, about every 15 minutes during use to ensure even results.

For best results, an initial application of clear **CUTEK® Extreme** should be applied to all faces of the wood prior to installing, with a second and possibly third application of **Colourtoned CUTEK® Extreme** applied to the top or outer surface, once the first application is completely dry. Two or three very thin applications on finished wood and hardwoods are better than one or two thick applications. **CUTEK® Extreme** will take longer to absorb/penetrate into dense hardwoods so very thin applications are best to avoid delayed penetration and drying of the oil.

Maintenance

Rejuvenation of the wood is a simple fast and cost-effective process.

Reapplication is required when the wood is no longer beading water, or as frequently as necessary to retain the natural beauty and colour of the wood. It is important to realise that colour durability varies widely according to many factors including the species, age and porosity of the wood, use, situation, exposure to the weather and how rough the wood surface is. The colour will fade faster in full weather exposed areas whereas wood in protected areas will retain colour with minimal maintenance over time.

Heavy wear paths can have **Colourtoned CUTEK® EXTREME** lightly feathered into those areas prior to a full reapplication.

Typically, horizontal exterior smooth surfaces such as pool decks may require coating every six months to two years, while vertical rough sawn cladding may require maintenance less frequently (refer to Factsheet No4 How to Maintain **CUTEK® Extreme**).