

Applying Lifeline Stains Over Existing Stains

We often get asked whether Perma-Chink Systems' Lifeline™ finishes can be applied over an existing stain. Since the answer to this question is not straight forward, we will look at the various types of stains individually. First and foremost, for the best look and performance of a Lifeline finish it is always best to remove any existing finish unless it already is a Lifeline finish. Even then, the existing Lifeline finish needs to be in pretty good shape before we recommend applying another coat on top of it.

Returning to the question, "can a Lifeline finish be applied over other brands of existing finishes?" If the existing finish is water-based and there are no signs of grayed wood and the color on all the walls is uniform, the answer is typically yes. However, if the existing water-based finish contains additives, i.e., wax or oils, there may be a problem with the Lifeline finish wetting the surface resulting in "fisheyes" in the film.

Lifeline should never be applied over film-forming oil stains like Sikkens Cetol Log & Siding, Sashco's Transformation, or other alkyd oil-based stains. These types of finishes should always be removed before applying Lifeline. This also applies to penetrating oil stains like Woodguard, Outlast Q8 Log Oil, TWP, Olympic and others. Attempting to apply Lifeline directly over an oil-based finish is risky. The last thing any of us want is for you to be disappointed with the results.

The best way to remove an existing oil finish is with chemical stripping. The components in most chemical finish removers, like our S-100™ and Striplt®, not only soften the finish but they also help remove any residual oil that may be present in the top layer of wood.

Media blasting may remove the alkyd film or the oil-based pigments, but does not remove any oils that have penetrated the wood. If Lifeline is immediately applied to the blasted surface, there is a chance that the remaining oil residue will migrate to the surface creating adhesion problems or blisters in the Lifeline film. It is recommended that the surface, prior to staining, be cleaned with Cedar Wash™, rinsed well and pH checked.

Some Rules of Thumb:

- » If you do not know what specific finish is on your home, remove it.
- » If there are black streaks, mold spots or any other discolorations that you do not want to see through the final finish, clean the surface down to bare wood and remove them.
- » If there are signs of gray wood or if the existing finish has areas that have peeled, clean the surface down to bare wood.
- » Never apply a Lifeline finish over oil-based finishes.