



Washing and Staining After Borate Treatments

Guidelines following a borate treatment to your log home:

PenaShield®

Washing – Avoid washing down a wall within five days of application. We recommend waiting at least seven days. In practice there are very few occasions when a wall treated with **PenaShield®** needs to be washed at all. Provided the first coat of finish can be applied within seven days of application there is no need to wash it down. If for some reason there is a delay in applying the first coat of finish or discolorations or white residue is present, then washing with water or Log Wash™ may be appropriate but again wait at least five days after the **PenaShield** was applied. Otherwise, too much of the active borate will be washed away.

Staining – An application of **PenaShield** usually dries sufficient to stain the wall within one to three days. There is rarely a need to wait more than three days after a **PenaShield** application to apply the first coat of finish. Occasionally early morning dew may make the wall a bit damp to the touch but once the sun comes out and the wall dries the finish may be applied without affecting adhesion. If application of the first coat of finish is delayed for several weeks or even months, they will not leach out. Once the borate gets into the wood it is very difficult to remove, even if it gets rained on for several months. In this case even pressure washing won't remove enough of the borate to matter.

Tim-Bor®

Washing – Avoid washing down a wall within three days of application. Again, it's best to wait at least seven days but in typical weather conditions most of the water accompanying the borate will have dried within three days and once the water dries the penetration of the borate into the wood ceases. If white deposits appear on the surface, start by lightly misting the area with water. If they remain visible after the surface dries, try washing the wall down.

Staining – Like **PenaShield** there is rarely an occasion that a **Tim-Bor** treatment is not dry enough to stain within one to three days.



Bora-Care®

Washing – The use of **Bora-Care** has created much of the confusion relating to washing borate treated walls. If **Bora-Care** is used, it must be allowed to dry at least 48 hours then washed down with **Log Wash™** before staining. The two weeks' wait and washing is not optional as it is required. We used to say that if it was dry to the touch, it was ready for staining, but we found that it could appear dry one day and be damp enough the next morning to create stain adhesion problems. In addition, we've found there are some types of molds that thrive on the glycols contained in the **Bora-Care**. If the treated surface is not thoroughly cleaned of these mold spores, there is a chance that mold spots can develop under the finish. Remember that although borates are great for eliminating and preventing wood decay fungi, they are not effective in killing or averting all types of surface molds.

Staining - The first coat of finish should not be applied over a **Bora-Care** treatment without first washing down the wall with a **Log Wash™** solution. One of the glycol components in **Bora-Care** tends to stay on the surface and can create adhesion issues with the stain, **Perma-Chink®**, and even **Energy Seal®**. Just remember to allow at least 48 hours after the **Bora-Care** application before washing the surface.