

## Drying, maintaining and treating your new Alton Building – advice from the factory:

It is important to bear in mind that your new Alton building is made from Cedar wood, a natural, breathing product that will take time to bed in to its new home. All the cedar parts as well as plywood parts (summerhouse roofs) are dip treated in a clear, spirit based wood preservative in our workshops. This helps to reduce staining from water and the release of brown coloured tannins from the wood which is part of the natural seasoning process. It will not, however, not completely prevent them appearing in time.

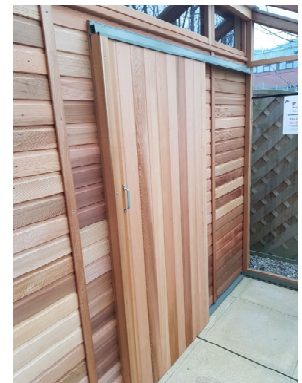
The idea of clear treatment is so that you can see the natural variations in the colour of the wood that is a natural property of Cedar wood. This can range from white through various shades of pink and brown to an ebony colour in the darkest cases. This variation in colour and the random distribution of different parts within the structure is to be celebrated and admired – hence we don't try to disguise it with a coloured treatment.

A secondary benefit of a clear treatment is that you can easily sloss more on the building on an annual basis and it won't be necessary to be careful about doing the whole building or getting it on the glass etc. There are always areas on a building that get more hammer than others from the weather and you will be able to tell these areas from the aging process and colour changes – these are the areas that you can quickly top the treatment up to get the best life out of your building.

One thing that the clear treatment does not do is protect against the natural ageing of the cedar wood. As soon as your building is up it will begin to fade gracefully to a silvery-grey colour. During this process you will get some watermarks and some areas such as the roof will darken quicker than others. At this point you have a choice as to whether you want to try and preserve the original colours, simply let it fade, or add a coloured treatment.

If you want to try and preserve the original colours then we recommend that you paint your building with clear Osmo oil which is probably the best product on the market for uV protection in a clear product. (code: 9698)

If your building has already faded grey or even black then you can clean it up quite easily. We do stock an Osmo wood reviver gel (code 9713) which is very good, but some customers tell us that the cedar cleans up quite nicely using bleach, swimming pool chlorine or patio cleaner. A light sanding in places can also bring the wood back up if you get areas of natural grain lifting.



Cedar naturally varies in colour from white through pinks to dark browns



Cedar will start to silver from day one



Both cedar wood and the Tanalised floor panels (on summerhouses) can have a high water content when new, so it is very important that the new building gets plenty of ventilation – particularly over its first winter. As the wood releases its moisture content, you can occasionally get mildew appearing in areas of the building.

The way to resolve this issue and prevent it from happening in the future is primarily to allow the building to naturally dry out by ensuring that it is well ventilated. However if this does happen, its nothing to worry about: Our advice would be to firstly clean off the existing mould using a household product solution (baking soda, distilled vinegar or detergent) or a specific manufactured product such as Dettol Mould and Mildew Remover. Once the components are clean and dry, a clear preservative can be generously applied to the affected areas as a belt and braces way to prevent it re-occurring.

Leave summerhouse windows open on the lowest setting to keep the summerhouse well ventilated to prevent mildew

You can apply any spirit based clear treatment to your summerhouse (or coloured if you so wish). We do stock the clear one (product code 4207) that we factory treat with in 2.5l sized tins or the red coloured treatment (product code 2114) used on Alton greenhouses and summerhouses in the past.

