

Maintenance Instructions – Shou-Sugi-Ban Exterior

Wooden roofs and façades are subject to considerable wear from the elements. Rain, hail and UV rays all contribute to weathering the surface. Installing roof overhangs, roof edge profiles and weather cornices can significantly extend the life of the surfaces. Façades that are exposed to a lot of sun need more frequent maintenance than façades that are shaded from the sun. Deep-charred Shou-Sugi-Ban cladding products require less maintenance than the charred and brushed products.

Deep-charred products: Naoshima, Tonosho, Marugame, Ayagawa

In principle, these products do not require any maintenance. If necessary, mossy growth can be cleaned off using a natural vinegar solution. Use a spray bottle for this, or use a garden sprayer for large surfaces. Do not use a high pressure sprayer as this can damage the charred surface. Do not use an abrasive scourer and do not scrub. Over the years the wood will start to show small spots of weathering. This is normal, and forms part of the special character of our products. In Japan this is called “Wabi-Sabi” – the aesthetic of transience and imperfection. These spots will go grey by themselves. In the case of extensive damage, we recommend replacing the whole panel.

Charred, brushed and stained products: Shodoshima, Takamatsu, Sakaide

These Shou-Sugi-Ban products only need to be re-stained, by the normal painting method, every 4 years. However, this period can vary somewhat depending on the location of the building and the direction in which the façade is facing. A new layer of stain should be applied before the wood starts to turn grey. White spots may appear on the Shodoshima and Takamatsu products. This is a natural process caused by resin in the wood. The white spots will disappear by themselves after a while.

Clean the façade with water and a brush. Use natural vinegar to remove any mossy growth (as described above). The Shodoshima and Takamatsu claddings are stained with Bito Black*, made from modified natural oils with a water base which helps the oils to penetrate deep into the wood. The oil is quite thin, which makes it quick and easy to work with. After cleaning the wood surface, apply a new coat of stain using a wide block brush. Note: Do NOT scour the wood with anything abrasive before applying the stain. Scouring will cause irreparable damage to the structure of the wood.

To maintain the Sakaide product, use a transparent, oil-based stain such as our Bito Orange*. Depending on how much weathering the wood has undergone, apply 1 to 2 coats using a nylon paint roller. To prevent the stain from drying out too quickly and therefore not penetrating sufficiently, avoid applying it in hot or especially sunny weather. Wipe excess stain off with a cloth so that it doesn't penetrate and leave a visible mark.

* Can be ordered through contact@zwarthout.com

