

Maintenance Instructions – Shou-Sugi-Ban Interior

When maintained in the proper manner, Shou-Sugi-Ban retains its beauty for years. The cladding products with a charred layer do not in principle require any maintenance. The surface of the brushed cladding products can become faded over time if exposed to too much direct sunlight. This can be remedied using the recommended products. The deep-charred Shou-Sugi-Ban cladding products require different maintenance to the charred and brushed products.

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

These Shou-Sugi-Ban products do not require any maintenance. Dust them carefully using a feather duster or a slightly damp lint-free cloth. Do not use an abrasive scourer and do not scrub. If there is any damage, do not try to fix it by burning it yourself! Due to the fixing process, these Shou-Sugi-Ban cladding products have lost most of their fire-resistant properties. We advise against using black paint to conceal damage – this does not usually give a pleasing result. This is because the paint finish has a different appearance to the silver gloss of the charred layer. In the case of extensive damage, we recommend replacing the whole panel.

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

When used for interior cladding, these Shou-Sugi-Ban products generally do not need to be re-stained. However, if the product is exposed to bright sunlight, it may fade over time. White spots may appear on the Shodoshima and Takamatsu cladding. This is a natural process caused by resin in the wood. The white spots will disappear by themselves after a while. They can also be removed carefully with a sharp knife. Do not use solvents as these will dissolve the water-based finish.

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. Small spots of damage can be touched up using the Bito Black stain. For a full restoration, clean the surface and apply a new layer 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.

The Sakaide interior cladding is treated with a natural wood oil product, Bito Clear*. You can also use other types of wood oil, such as linseed oil. Apply a thin coating of oil. Wait half an hour then wipe with a dry cloth to remove any residual oil.

* Can be ordered through contact@zwarthout.com

