

The topical subject

Protecting woods from mould and blue stain



Protecting wood from moisture penetration

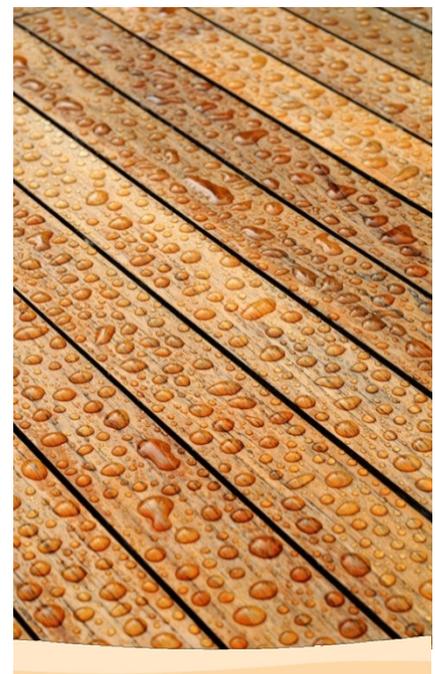
Wood is not only a popular material and construction material among humans but also a sought-after habitat and food source among insects and fungi. If animals or plants come off as winners in this competition, we lose out and regard these actually rather useful organisms as mere pests.

Fortunately man is able to win this competition by constructively protecting wood from permanent moisture penetration. As a matter of fact, insects and fungi love moisture and like wood with a water content of over 20 % best.

Water vapour permeability – an important topic

Besides constructional measures such as roof overhangs, standoffs, draining channels, etc., the most simple means of constructive wood protection is a "good" coating. A coating is "good" in this context if it can do two things at the same time: firstly repel liquid water and secondly allow to penetrate vaporous water. AURO impregnations, varnishes and glazes have been offering these virtues for many decades in a perfectly balanced ratio – provided regular maintenance.

However, there are situations where constructive and moisture-controlling measures are not sufficient. This above all applies for tenderings that make it compulsory to use a certified wood preservative. A similar situation arises if constructional defects cannot be eliminated or in the case of a strong pre-infestation e.g. with blue stain.



These cases pose a major ecological problem that can only be solved by use of certain biocide-containing, officially tested wood preservatives that comply with the applicable standards. According to the Ordinance on Hazardous Substances, the contained fungicides are classified as harmful, even toxic as well as environmentally hazardous.



The solution

Even so we would not leave our customers alone with this problem. Actually there is only one solution, namely the use of AURO products after applying a first "conventional" wood priming coat. Technically speaking, we have no objections to such a method, and the systems are perfectly compatible. The ecological argument in favour of such a compromise is that the method "1 time chemistry, 2-3 times ecology" is a much better choice than the method "3-4 times chemistry" – the ecology still easily wins when choosing this "second best" alternative as a compromise solution. On the other hand, it must also be noted that even biocide-containing preservatives cannot ensure freedom from infestation! As a consequence, from a technical point of view, complaints due to fungoid growth do not justify any claims for damages.

Suitable wood preservatives ...

...are available in solvent-based or water-dilutable. The products must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions, of course we cannot assume responsibility for these. The subsequent coating with AURO products must be applied according to the respective technical data sheets. These are a few suitable wood preserving products that are common in Germany:

| Manufacturer | Product |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| BRILLUX | Impredur Holzschutzgrund 550 |
| HERBOL | Bläueschutzgrund BS |
| SIKKENS | Cetol Aktiva |

All data (without engagement) according to technical data sheets of manufacturers. For further information, please contact the manufacturer. Many more products are listed here:

<http://holzschutzmittelverzeichnis.de/Aufistung%20HSM%207-2016%20-%20Beispiel.pdf>

In order to find suitable wood preservatives in your country, either contact the local branches of the abovementioned manufacturers or check for similar products of other producers.



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