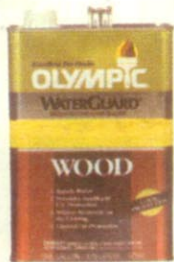




1 Cabot



2 Wolman



3 Olympic

CR Quick Recommendations

The highest-rated products hold up well for a full three years. You can expect the best of them to have picked up only a little dirt, remain close to their original color, and protect the wood from cracking. The worst become unsightly and compromise protection in as little as a year.

The **Ratings** ranks products strictly by performance. It includes products that held up for our entire three-year testing cycle and those that deteriorated so much during their first years of exposure that we ceased testing. We also present preliminary results for some products—mainly opaque treatments—that are still in testing because they are new or reformulated. Seek out the promising treatments if you can't find fully tested products in stores. And avoid the less-promising treatments, which have already fallen behind the best fully tested products. The **Quick Picks**, below, consider both test results and factors we don't rate, including value.

QUICK PICKS

Best for most decks:

- 1 Cabot, \$24
- 2 Wolman, \$24

The opaque Cabot (1) still looks very good after four years, with little color change or mildew but some dirt buildup. If you can't find this Cabot, a brandmate (17) is faring comparably after two years.

For wood worth showing off, the semi-transparent Wolman (2) is a better choice, though you may need to reapply it a year or so earlier than the Cabot (1).

If the natural look counts most:

- 3 Olympic Water Guard, \$12

This is the only good choice among clear deck treatments. Just don't expect top-notch performance.

Ratings deck treatments

• Availability Most products at stores through 2003.

● Excellent
 ● Very good
 ○ Good
 ○ Fair
 ● Poor

In performance order. **Blue** key numbers indicate Quick Picks; see box at left.

Key number	Product	Price	Type	Overall score	Appearance			Resists			
					After 1 year	After 2 years	After 3 years	Dirt	Color change	Cracking	Mildew
APPEARANCE HELD UP Fully tested.											
1	Cabot Decking Stain 1480	\$24	opaque	95	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2	Wolman Durastain	24	semi.	90	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
3	Olympic Water Guard 57560	12	clear	85	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4	Akzo Nobel Sikkens Cetol SRD	27	semi.	80	●	●	●	○	○	○	○
5	Sherwin-Williams UV Sunblock	20	semi.	75	●	●	●	○	○	○	○
6	Benjamin Moore Moorwood Alkyd	26	semi.	70	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
7	True Value Woodsman UV	16	semi.	65	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
8	Penofin Penetrating Oil Finish	25	semi.	60	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9	Pratt & Lambert Stainshield Oil	20	semi.	55	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10	Wolman Rain Coat with Natural Wood Toner	16	semi.	50	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
APPEARANCE DETERIORATED Testing ended early.											
11	Sherwin-Williams 158-0448	20	semi.	45	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12	Glidden Endurance Deck Sealer	19	clear	40	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
13	Benjamin Moore Moorwood #076	25	clear	35	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
14	McCloskey Man O' War 7941	13	semi.	30	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
15	Wolman Rain Coat with Water Repellent	16	clear	25	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
16	Ace Wood Royal	17	semi.	20	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
INITIALLY PROMISING Still under test, so no overall score.											
17	Cabot Solid Color 1880	29	opaque		●	●	○	○	○	○	○
18	Benjamin Moore Moorwood #065	25	opaque		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
19	Behr Deck Plus (Home Depot)	20	opaque		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
20	McCloskey Man O' War 7953	14	opaque		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
21	Valspar Severe Weather 104303	17	opaque		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LESS PROMISING Still under test, so no overall score.											
22	Olympic Solid Color 53060	18	opaque		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
23	McCloskey Man O' War 7961	13	semi.		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
24	Olympic Water Repellent 53106	18	semi.		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
25	Amteco TWP 101	28	semi.		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
26	Benjamin Moore Moorwood #070	25	semi.		○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Guide to the Ratings

Overall score reflects a weighted average of performance over the duration of the tests (3 years for products in the top group, 1 or 2 years for the others). The score is based on the appearance of each product as well as cracking of the boards to which it was applied. **Type** is our description of whether a treatment covers wood grain (opaque), shows some grain (semitransparent), or shows lots of grain (clear). **Appearance** shows how each product's appearance deteriorates over time. **Resists dirt** highlights products that accumulate little dirt. **Resists color change** shows which products fade or change color the least in sunlight. **Resists cracking** shows which deck treatments are best at preventing the southern yellow pine boards we used from developing cracks or splits. **Resists mildew** shows which minimize the buildup of mildew. **Price** is the approximate retail.