

## Information Data Sheet

### Pre-Primed Weather Boards (LOSP)

The use of light organic solvent preservative (LOSP) to prime timber before sale is causing concerns for painters in the industry especially where it is used on Pinus Radiata for exterior application.

This has resulted in many complaints from consumers as they are under the impression that the timber is already primed and only needs the finish coats.

It is important for all painters to be aware of what is a recognised primer and what is only a pre primer. Pre primer is only designed to temporarily protect the timber and will break down quickly if left exposed to the elements.

Most timber companies will have manufacturer's recommendation if their product is suitable to paint over as per normal procedures. We recommend that this recommendation by the manufacturers be retained as it will save problems further down the track if there is a breakdown in the surface coating.

If you are not sure or there is no specification provided it is important that an adhesion test be carried out before painting? When in doubt if any of the coating is unsound it should be completely removed washed down and reprimed before applying two coats of the selected paint finish.

The Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation has published guidelines for testing the adhesion of the primer before applying topcoats, and recommends the following:

- Cut a small "x" through the existing coat with a sharp blade.
- Press cellulose tape firmly across the cut and then rip off the tape
- If any existing coating comes off it is unsound and must be removed by sanding.

The high moisture content of radiata pine is also a major problem with excessive shrinking that the painter has no control over and is expected by the client to repair free of charge. We recommend a moisture check be carried out before painting.

#### Key Problems

Resin bleeding thru finished paint work

Splitting from edges of timber

Shrinking of timber

Lack of film thickness as recommended by manufacturers

Knot holes falling out

Splintering of timber

Ends not primed

Cracking and peeling back to bare substrate or within the primer layer itself

We appreciate that if the primer has to be removed it will add extra cost to the project.

This will be a lot better than having to remove the painting system if it breaks down within 12 months

We would prefer that these products not be called primers and that Architects and Builders be aware of the problems when specifying to avoid disappointment from consumers.