

# Staining tips for outdoor surfaces

Spring is the perfect time to get outside and prepare your outdoor living space for warm days and stary nights. Staining the deck and furniture not only protects and increases their lifespan, but if done right, it will help create a beautiful and luxu-

rious outdoor atmosphere. Sharon Grech, colour and design expert for Benjamin Moore shares her outdoor design inspiration and staining tips for you to try out this spring.

### BRING THE INDOORS OUT

Interior inspired deck and patio areas are becoming increasingly popular, and there are easy ways to effortlessly achieve this look. "Start by adding indoor touches to the outside, such as a brass-finished accent table, portable lantern or a water-resistant bar cart. Consider adding an outdoor ottoman to store some blankets in for those cooler evenings," suggests Grech.

### GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR STAIN

Try a two-tone effect with stain – using one colour on the deck and another on the railings or on two different levels of the deck for a sophisticated look. A natural, lighter stain works well on the deck, while a darker more solid stain will enhance architectural features of the railing.

### TRY A DIFFERENT FINISH

When it comes to staining, selecting the right product and finish is crucial for optimal results. A premium exterior stain will protect your surface and enrich the grain of wood surfaces.

"Try out the different colours and translucencies of stain to ensure you get the perfect finish for your wood," explains Grech.

Many products are available in pint sample cans, so you can try them out before buying gallons. For new wood, try a translucent finish; for older wood or a patch job, try a solid stain for a refreshed look.

Grech suggests Arborcoat from Benjamin Moore, which is available in an array of colours and finishes.

### DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE FURNITURE

Furniture is the perfect medium to infuse some colour outdoors. "When painting a Muskoka chair or an old outdoor table, take some risks with colour. These surfaces can be easily repainted to suit your changing design taste, so don't be afraid to add some colour," shares Grech. "This year I'm recommending Patriot Blue 2064-20 and Royal Flush 2076-20 to add bold strokes to your outdoor furniture."

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