

Wooden bollards

Recommended treatment for wooden bollards



COLLINGWOOD
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Thank you for choosing a natural timber product from Collingwood Lighting.

Each bollard is handcrafted in the UK in a choice of high-quality hardwoods: Iroko, Sapele, or European Oak. Iroko and Sapele are very durable hardwoods from tropical Africa. Iroko is naturally insect and rot resistant, making it ideal for outdoor products. Sapele is a very stable timber, particularly resistant to indentation and bending strength. Oak is notoriously durable and offers an exquisite finish.

Upon installation, it is important to consider what type of finish and protection you would like for the wooden bollards. A number of treatments are available to shield them from the impact of weather and time. Each option presents unique characteristics of protection and finish. You will find a guide below with some options that we have tested over time. Others are available and can be just as effective.

No treatment option.

Left untreated, bollards will develop cracks as they dry and the natural oil it contains comes out. Their colour will evolve over time, usually darkening as they weather. Not treating the timber is a valid option if you prefer to see the bollard weather and blend into its environment.

Cracks can appear more or less quickly depending upon where the bollards are installed (in the shade, or in direct sunlight). It is also common for cracks to form during sunny and dry periods and close when the humidity level increases. In any case, these cracks should not hinder the bollard's function.

It is however common to protect the bollards to help keep them from cracking, staining and discolouring for longer. There are essentially two types of timber treatments, those that are absorbed into the surface of the timber, and those that form a protective coating on the surface.

Penetrative timber treatments.

Penetrative timber treatments are the type of products that soak into the timber and protect from within. These products are predominantly oil and wax based. They work by penetrating then drying in the surface grain of the timber to provide a durable, weather resistant and UV resistant surface.

The key benefit of this type of product is that they are very easy to apply and maintain. When the finished surface starts to look worn, a fresh coat can be applied. The bollards do not need sanding to remove the old finish. We recommend that bollards are treated at least every 12 months, ideally every 6 months.

Specialists brands include Osmo, Fiddes, Ronseal, Barretine, Cuprinol and Holzol.

We have tested several Osmo oils and wax with good results. They are available in a range of colours designed to work in harmony with the natural colours found in different species of timber. Clear finishes will require more frequent maintenance compared to coloured finishes; the darker, more opaque the finish chosen, the higher the level of protection against UV light. Additionally, Osmo End Grain Wax can be applied to the top and bottom of the bollard to help prevent moisture from being absorbed. If using end grain sealing wax, apply two cloth coats to the end grain, prior to applying two coats of the finish. Please allow drying between coats.

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Exterior coating.

Exterior timber coating systems have been developed to withstand the effects of weathering and the constant movement of the timber as a result of moisture and temperature changes. They are flexible and durable, meaning that they rarely need to be stripped back to bare wood if maintained correctly. They however require more extensive preparation than penetrative wood treatments.

Good quality brands are engineered so that as the top coat wears over time, it loses some of its sheen.

The finish can be maintained through simple steps:

- Wipe down with Methylated Spirit to degrease the old finish.
- Lightly sand the surface to remove any ingrained surface dirt and debris.
- Wipe down a second time after sanding with Methylated Spirit to remove all traces of sanding dust and any residual grease.
- A fresh top coat can be applied to restore the appearance and maximise protection of the timber

Available brands include: Sadolin, Sikkens, Dulux Trade and Crown Paints.

The effects of untreated wood.

Below are some examples of Iroko wood products showing the effects and consequences of no treatment or application of timber treatment.

New product - untreated.

Very fine lines appearing, indicating early stages of shrinkage when situated in natural environment.

Few months - untreated.

Colour has begun to change when situated in natural environment.

Few years - untreated.

Wood has cracked and turned grey when situated in natural environment.

New product - treated.

New Iroko wood bollard with OSMO end grain wax (applied top and bottom) and UV protection oil applied to all sides.

