

July 2009

WoodPlus – Ultra 10

Cedar Siding Blues

In 1991 my wife and I bought a home primarily because it had a large kitchen extension. The extension has a clear cedar siding and from 1991 until approximately 3 summers ago it was a blight on my existence. One of the advantages of any wood siding is the look. However when your west facing, the sunny side, the side you see if you're in the back yard, appears to be a cross between a snake shedding skin and a dreadful psoriasis condition one tends to begin to weigh alternatives. Since 1991 I have refinished the west side 5 times.

My initial efforts, once other things with higher priority were out of the way, was to scrape, strip and sand the siding, and after a lot of work on prep, apply a new coating as per the manufacturer's directions. Obviously I was happy with the initial results and following a long summer, I'd do the refinish work in the spring, I'd take a hard look at the west side in the fall and curse under my breath as defects and spots where the finish would obviously be coming off in the spring came to light.

I consulted books, I consulted yachting friends who have extensive experience with wooden brightwork on boats, and I complained about it to various shops where I'd whipped out anywhere between 40 or 75 bucks a gallon. I went through this every second or third year, depending for my tolerance for having a sad looking finish peeling off my extension. My last efforts involved stripper, a belt sander, those giant rubber pads which degunk belt sanders when the finish adheres to the belt rendering the belt useless in 2 minutes flat and a ton of elbow grease as per usual. This time I did the whole extension, 3 sides, the west obviously, the north and the east. I used WoodPlus Cedar. I applied 2 coats to the east and north sides, I applied 3 coats to the west side, I touched up the west side in a couple of minor spots last season. There has been no lifting, no scaling, no discoloration, no problems and no work each spring redoing all this over again and now after 15 summers of looking at my extension with apprehension or plain loathing I look at it and think, hey it looks great.

Thank you WoodPlus

Al Hutton