

PRODUCTS

Concentrated Low-VOC Stain

Just add water

by Scott Gibson

Eco Hybrid Stain has near-zero levels of volatile organic compounds and offers advantages of both water- and oil-based finishes, says its maker, Eco Chemical. Like a conventional oil-based finish, it penetrates deeply into wood, adheres well, and has good color clarity. And like water-based stains, it forms a durable, vapor-permeable film, is nontoxic and nonflammable, and cleans up with soap and water.

Sold in 5-gallon containers of concentrate, Eco Hybrid Stain is typically mixed with water in a 1-to-3 ratio before application, yielding a total of 20 gallons of stain. The amount of water added can be adjusted to change the degree of opacity.

Pigments in the stains are 100 percent iron oxides, which offer high resistance to UV light and don't chalk or fade, according to the company. Six colors are available: redwood, cedar tone, gold, brown, black, and gray.



Eco Chemical is in the process of establishing a dealer network for Eco Hybrid. For the time being, contractors can purchase the stain (only in 5-gallon containers) by calling Eco Chemical directly. A container costs between \$40 and \$45, so mixed to the usual concentration, it runs about \$2 a gallon.

Scott Gibson is a freelance writer in East Waterboro, Maine.

■ **Eco Chemical**, 800/677-7930, ecochemical.com.

Exterior Tile Underlayment

Approved for use over living spaces



Duradek has tweaked its Ultra roofing membrane to create a waterproofing product specifically for use beneath exterior tile installations. Unlike the roofing membrane, Ultra Tiledek has fabric embedded in its surface to promote adhesion with thinset mortar.

The company says the 60-mil PVC membrane is completely compatible with thinset adhesive, can be used in high-traffic areas, is stable in high-heat, high-moisture conditions, and won't degrade. It meets code requirements for use over living spaces, and has passed ANSI and ASTM tests required by the Tile Council of North America and the Terrazzo Tile and Marble Association of Canada.

One hitch is that you can't buy and install the membrane yourself. Ultra Tiledek can be installed only by trained contractors specializing in roof-deck and balcony waterproofing.

The company didn't provide pricing. — S.G.

■ **Duradek**, 800/338-3568, duradek.com/tiledek.

For more information about these products, go to <http://exteriorproducts.hotims.com>.

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—Fred Chandler, Publisher 9/30/12

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Acetylated Porch Flooring

Perennial Wood adds to product line

Like Perennial Wood's decking, its tongue-and-groove porch flooring is southern pine treated with a process called acetylation, which alters the cellular structure of wood with heat, pressure, and acetic anhydride. The treatment leaves no toxic materials in the wood, and boards can be painted or stained. The company says the wood is three times more stable dimensionally than unmodified wood and is less likely to shrink, swell, cup, and warp. It's guaranteed against rot, decay, and movement for 25 years.

Perennial Wood decking is available in the Northeast, but the porch flooring is the first Perennial product that will be distributed in the southeastern U.S. It will be sold in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia in lumberyards serviced by Snavey Forest Products.

Flooring will come in 8- and 10-foot lengths in three profiles: $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch thick with a $3\frac{1}{8}$ -inch face; and $2\frac{9}{32}$ inch thick with a $5\frac{1}{8}$ -inch face.

The company didn't list pricing but said the flooring would be priced at or below the retail price for premium porch flooring made from plastics and wood-plastic composites. — S.G.

■ **Perennial Wood**, 800/530-7495, perennialwood.com.



For more information about this product, go to <http://exteriorproducts.hotims.com>.