The Cypress Exchange
Newsletter of the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

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Cleaning Cypress Q&A

Q: I have cypress siding, soffit, beams, and trim on the outside of my 8-year-old beach home. No finishes were applied to the wood when it was installed, and it’s weathering to a beautiful silver color as expected. However, some parts of the house do not receive as much sunlight, salt, and wind as other areas. The cypress in these areas has a black, powdery mildew on it. How should I clean the wood?

A: The generally prescribed method of cleaning exterior cypress is washing it with wood cleaners, brighteners, or warm soapy water, and then rinsing. This should remove dirt and grime, as well as discoloration caused by mildew and algae. If mildew is still present, let the wood dry. Then, mix together a mild bleach solution (3-quarts water, 1-quart oxygen-based bleach, and 1/4-cup ammonia-free dish detergent). Spray the solution on the affected areas using a pump sprayer and let it sit for 15 minutes. Scrub the wood if necessary and rinse. Repeat if necessary.

In most cases, this will restore the cypress to its original appearance, but the wood will eventually return to its weathered, gray look. Let the SCMA help you answer your cypress care and repair questions.

Contact us.

Make a Design Statement with Cypress

As Americans design their dream homes, or plan the remodel of their existing ones, wood is once again becoming a prominent feature in their interior design schemes. One species in particular—cypress—is attracting the attention of both millennials in the suburbs and boomers along the shoreline.

What’s the appeal?

Cypress: The Natural Choice for Siding

Known for its honey-like hues and ability to withstand the elements, cypress is fast becoming the go-to-product for siding and a host of other outdoor applications. There’s no denying it, cypress is a natural beauty. And with proper care and maintenance, it’s a product that will provide a lifetime of good looks and lasting performance.

So let’s talk siding.

About the SCMA

The Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of cypress building products to design professionals and consumers. For more information or to find out how to join, please contact the SCMA.