

Finishing XT Posts and Beams

The natural warmth and beauty of wood is still a major draw for today's homeowner. Nothing says "home" quite like a front porch flanked with solid wood columns. Many builders are specifying XT Posts and Beams in their plans and for good reason. These glulam products are engineered with design load capacities, exhibit high stability in their appearance characteristics, are competitively priced. Unlike cedar or Doug fir, XT Posts and Beams are warranted against decay and rot for 20 years. Another major advantage is their acceptance of paints and stains to allow the full spectrum of wood coloration from light maple to black walnut. This technical bulletin offers finishing guidance for XT Post and Beam products.

Finish Recommendations

XT products come with factory applied light gray primer or a clear primer/sealant, both water-based formulations. The final look will depend on the type of water-based stain used – transparent, semi-transparent or solid. Over the light gray primer, Belco recommends solid color stains or semi-transparent if a glazed or distressed look is desired. Over clear coated XT Posts and Beams, Belco recommends transparent or semi-transparent. These stains are more suited to bring out the grain variations when desired. Most major paint manufacturers offer water-based stains in a variety of colors. Some of the leading suppliers include Behr, Sherwin Williams, Olympic, Rodda and Benjamin Moore.

Apply two (2) coats, within sixty (60) days of XT product installation. Topcoat may be a clear latex acrylic, a paint or stain that is compatible with the primer, applied in accordance with all specifications, guidelines and recommendations of the topcoat manufacturer.

The product should and carry a warranty of no less than fifteen (15) years.



The post on the left was stained with a cedar pigmented solid body stain. The post on the right was given two coats of white latex paint.

Oil vs Water-Based Finishes

The XT primer is a water-based primer, and the old adage oil and water don't mix is also true here. For best results, stick with water-based stains and paints when finishing your XT Post and Beam products. Oils are critical when used with wood species such as cedar or Doug fir when tannin bleed is a concern. That is not an issue with Belco's preservative treated and primed SPF species.

ABOUT BELCO FOREST PRODUCTS – In business since 1978, the company operates three manufacturing plants on 16 acres in Shelton, Washington. Belco produces a variety of exterior wood products including the best-selling XT brand, a line of premium treated trim for residential and commercial applications. All Belco products are available through leading distributors nationwide.