Sashco's Stain SWITCHING GUIDE

This guide provides some simple principles for switching stains.
For project-specific guidance, reach out to our friendly, trained, and phone-tree-free Customer Service team at **800-767-5656** or **orders@sashco.com.**

Required Prep When Stain is in ***Poor Shape***

(30-40% of stain is significantly degraded or peeling and/or there's significant bare or gray wood.)

Ideal Land	Next Best Land	Don't Go There Land
✓ Remove everything that's on the surface now via dry blasting and/or chemical wash (degreaser)	✓ Remove ALL oils and waxes ✓ Remove 80%+ everything except the stuff that's still holding tightly ✓ Use Osborn® brushes to remove as much of the remaining 20% as possible	✓ Do a quick power wash to clean the surface, leave everything else as-is, and hope for the best (Spray and pray, y'all!)

Required Prep When Stain is in ***OK Shape***

(Stain looks faded, but isn't loose or peeling and there's minimal bare or gray wood.)

Ideal Land	Next Best Land	Don't Go There Land
✓ Remove everything that's on the surface now via dry blasting and/or chemical wash (degreaser)	✓ Wash ALL oils and waxes from the surface ✓ Do a light power wash to remove anything degraded ✓ Use Osborn® brushes to remove any gray wood	✓ Do a quick power wash to clean the surface, leave everything else as-is, and hope for the best (Spray and pray, y'all!)

Required Prep When Stain is in ***Good Shape***

(Stain looks a bit tired but is still intact. There is no bare or gray wood.)

Ideal Land	Next Best Land	Don't Go There Land
✔ Power wash with a degreaser and antimicrobial cleaner to remove surface contaminants, waxes, and oils	✔ Power wash with a degreaser and antimicrobial cleaner to remove surface contaminants, waxes, and oils	✔ Stain over whatever is on there with no wash down. (Once again, spray and pray, y'all! A wash down is important, no matter which route you go.)

Technology SWITCHING GUIDE

Technology Type	Basic Switching Guide
Surface Stain to Surface Stain 	✔ If in bad shape, remove as much of the existing stain as possible. ✔ If there are remnants left over (keep it to no more than 20%), not a big deal. Those areas won't usually interfere with proper performance of the new product. ✔ Those remnants will show through the new stain, so sample to make sure the look is acceptable. Darker colors hide better. Also, these areas will fail first, if failure happens. *If in good shape, try to do maintenance with the existing product. If that product isn't available, you can apply a coat of the same technology over top, but watch for spot areas of peeling over time. Peeling risk is low, but still present.*

Technology Type	Basic Switching Guide
Drying Oil to Surface Stain 	✓ If in bad shape, remove as much of the existing stain as possible. ✓ If there are remnants left over (keep it to no more than 20%), not a big deal. Those areas won't usually interfere with proper performance of the new product. ✓ Those remnants will show through the new stain, so sample to make sure the look is acceptable. Darker colors hide better. Also, these areas will fail first, if failure happens. *If in good shape, it's not time to switch. It's time to do maintenance with the existing product.*
Drying Oil to Drying Oil 	✓ Remove as much of the existing product as possible. The new product cannot penetrate through remaining stain and may not wet out the surface properly. ✓ Remnants (no more than 20%) are not usually a big deal, as long as the existing product contains no waxes or silicones. ✓ Any remnants will show through the new, so sample after prep over the remnants to make sure the look is acceptable. Darker colors hide better. ✓ Flexibility may be an issue. Transformation Log & Timber is flexible. Others are not. This could lead to small areas of peeling, so be on the look out. *If in good shape, try to do maintenance with the existing product. If that product isn't available, you can apply a coat of the same technology over top, but watch for spot areas of peeling over time. Peeling risk is low, but still present.*
Non-Drying Oil to Surface Stain 	✓ ***Don't do it.*** Switch only to a shallow-penetrating oil like Transformation Log & Timber. ✓ If you MUST switch (VOC laws or personal health require it), removing all existing stain via blasting and a degreaser + power wash is critical. (You'll get major peeling otherwise.) ✓ Apply Colorfast to help mitigate some of those oils coming to the surface again. *Not a guarantee, but helps lower the risk of peeling significantly.*
Surface Stain to Hybrid Stain 	✓ If in bad shape, remove as much of the existing stain as possible. ✓ If there are remnants left over (keep it to no more than 20%), not a big deal. Those areas won't usually interfere with proper performance of the new product. ✓ Those remnants will show through the new stain, so sample to make sure the look is acceptable. *If in good shape, it's not time to switch. It's time to do maintenance with the existing product.*

Technology Type	Basic Switching Guide
Surface Stain to Drying Oil Stain	✔ Removing all of the existing stain is critical. The oil-based product cannot penetrate through remaining water-based stain and may not wet out the surface properly. ✔ Make sure the oil-based product is compatible with any sealants already on the home. You don't want the new stain interfering with that bond. *If in good shape, it's not time to switch. It's time to do maintenance with the existing product. If you can't find the same product, stay with the same technology – a water-based product – to reduce peeling risks.*
Surface Stain or Drying Oil Stain to Non-Drying Oil	✔ Removing all of the existing stain is critical. The oil-based product cannot penetrate through remaining water-based stain and may not wet out the surface properly. ✔ Make sure the oil-based product is compatible with any sealants already on the home. You don't want the new stain interfering with that bond. Since that's virtually impossible with a non-drying oil... *Sashco recommends avoiding non-drying oils on log homes. Risk of caulking and chinking failure is high, so we'd recommend just skipping this switch altogether.*

One final word: Switching stains without going to bare wood always comes with some risk.

So do a proper risk assessment up front by testing everything – prep and new product – prior to taking the whole-home leap with a switch. In most cases, it'll be successful. And again, if in doubt, call us. We're happy to talk options and risks for your particular circumstances.

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