# Timber cladding - Red Grandis

Service life guide

Exposure conditions vary significantly in the British Isles. South facing elevations, coastal sites, and sunny exposed locations will all reduce, to some extent, coating life to first maintenance.

This note gives a guide to typical maintenance cycles on cladding, factory finished with Teknos exterior systems. The lifetime quoted is intended to give a reasonable guide in average UK conditions.

As a general rule, Teknos recommend more frequent preventative, rather than reactive, maintenance. This helps maintain decorative appearance while reducing the time and cost of individual maintenance cycles.

## Design factors affecting service life and maintenance cycles

Good profile design is critical to long term cladding performance. In particular, sharp edges should be eliminated and all features designed to ensure fast, efficient water drain off. All end grain must be fully coated with a minimum of one, and ideally two, coats of Teknoseal 4000 end grain sealer.

Appropriate fixing methods are essential if the specified cladding service life is to be achieved and maintenance intervals extended. Face fixings, which provide weak spots for moisture ingress, should be avoided and adequate ventillation available behind the boards to prevent moisture build up.

Coating breakdown is usually initiated by mechanical breakdown caused either by failure at the timber surface or dimensional changes in the board as moisture levels vary. Flexibile (low modulus) Teknos water based acrylic coatings provide greater resistance to this type of failure than oil based paints.

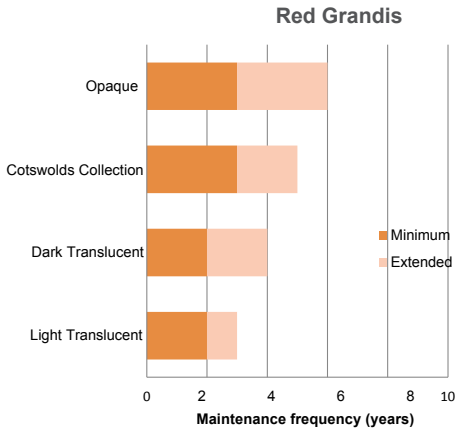
Sunlight (UV) degrades the lining in the timber surface, initiating breakdown, and shortening maintenance cycles. Coating pigmentation inhibits UV degradation in much the same way that sun creams protect exposed skin. If the pigmentation is low, as in light translucent shades, the protection factor is less than more heavily pigmented coatings such as whites and opaque colours. This is reflected in the maintenance frequency.

Care is also required with very dark colours, such as blacks, which have high heat absorption in direct sunlight. At high temperatures, surface checking can cause problems, which may result in more frequent maintenance.

Coated surfaces and adjacent rainwater goods should be regularly maintained and washed down to remove surface pollution (NB. Do not use pressure washers).

Some “chalking” of the paint film will occur over time due to the natural erosion of the microporous paint film. This is quite normal and does not detract from the system performance.

If any sapwood is present in the cladding boards, the timber must be preservative treated.




**The graph above shows a typical maintenance interval for a range of coating systems applied to Red Grandis. Extended maintenance frequencies can be achieved in optimum conditions.**

*Note:*

*This information relates to coatings applied in the factory; to well designed timber cladding; applied at the correct film thickness; and using recommended application methods.*



Teknos GBI, Heath Farm, Banbury Rd, Swerford Oxon OX7 4BN | t: 01608 683 494 | e: sales@teknos.co.uk | www.teknos.co.uk