

## **IMPORTANT:**

It is highly recommended that the entire guide is reviewed for best practice methods for all Diamond Kote® Building Products.

## **PERIODIC MAINTENANCE & CARE**

The siding should be inspected periodically:

- Re-fasten any loose siding and cut back any trees/shrubs that touch the siding. Replace any caulking that has hardened, cracked or lost its seal.
- Correct the drainage in any spots where water is retained in contact with the siding. Long term contact with water may result in discoloration.
- Avoid regularly wetting the siding with lawn sprinklers since water in many locales contain rust or minerals which may discolor the siding's surface, shorten the life of the finish and encourage the growth of mildew and fungus.
- Diamond Kote® does not recommend power washing siding, it can cause moisture intrusion, damage and/or discoloration.

## **CLEANING**

Depending on location and climate conditions, siding may be subject to occasional accumulations of dirt, dust, etc.

- Periodic washing is helpful (every 6 to 12 months). Use clean water and mild detergent, then apply with a cloth, sponge or soft brush (such as a car wash brush). Less streaking will result if the siding is washed from bottom to top. Immediately follow by rinsing thoroughly with clean water.
- Never use harsh cleaners, abrasives or strong solvents, which may damage the paint or surface. If the dirt does not wash off it may be mildew or fungus growth.

## **MOISTURE MANAGEMENT & GUTTERS**

Water management is key to protecting every part of your home, including your siding. Each area of the country is affected by moisture, whether it's an occasional thunderstorm or high levels of rainfall. The resulting water has potential to cause damage.

We recommend protecting your home from rainfall with gutters and downspouts. Always be sure that your drainage system is free of debris to work properly.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Plants hold moisture, so any bushes, trees or other plants that are close to your home should be trimmed periodically. Plants should not come into contact with your siding. Also, sprinkler systems should be adjusted to never saturate areas near your home.

## **CLEARANCES**

Maintain required clearances and drainage slopes to ensure that moisture is diverted away from your siding at roof lines and ground level. Proper clearances include 1" from concrete, roof lines, patios, etc. and 6" from final grade. Landscaping should not reach the siding.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## TOUCH-UP PAINT GUIDELINES

Diamond Kote® Touch-Up Paint is intended for use on Diamond Kote® pre-finished products. We cannot guarantee the performance of Diamond Kote Touch-Up Paint on other products.

- Apply touch-up paint on all exposed face nails. Diamond Kote® Touch-Up Paint Pens are recommended for touch-up painting on the finished face of products.
- Before starting, read all label instructions and warnings.
- Only apply paint to bare area. **MINIMIZE APPLYING PAINT OVER PAINT.**
- Keep container from freezing.
- **BE SURE TO SHAKE QUARTS, GALLONS, AND 8OZ BOTTLES A MINIMUM OF 2 MINUTES TO THOROUGHLY MIX PAINT BEFORE USE!**

## PROPER DIAMOND KOTE® TOUCH-UP

- Surface must be clean and dry.
- Test the color on a sample piece or hidden area of the siding/trim before applying.
- Do NOT fan out or try to blend the paint.
- Allow 24 hours dry time.
- Avoid getting touch-up paint on the face of the boards and try not to apply more paint than what is needed.
- Apply touch-up paint with Diamond Kote® Touch-Up Pens to conceal scratches (up to 1" in length and less than 1/16" wide), exposed nail heads, or small nicks.
- Do not apply touch-up paint to spots greater than 3/4" in diameter.
- It is recommended to apply paint only when air and siding temperatures are above 40° F.

## PAINT CARE:

- Do not allow touch-up paint to freeze.
- Do not use the touch-up paint if you suspect it has frozen.
- Clean up with soap and water after use.
- Shake 8oz bottles, quarts, and gallons a minimum of 2 minutes to mix. Inspect for swirling.
- If swirls appear on the surface of the paint, continue shaking until the paint is thoroughly mixed. The absence of swirls on the surface ensures the paint is thoroughly mixed.