

# TSP TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE

**TIPS ON CLEANING LOGS:** If logs are stored long term, if no sap-stain control is used, if excessive drying removed sap-stain control from the surface and allowed some surface graying, or if excessive humidity allowed some surface mildew, then the logs may need cleaning. There are many oxidizers on the market. However, most times chlorine bleach, TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) or oxalic acid will do the job. **The main things to remember are: Neutralize the bleach with clear water, or the salts in the bleach could remain to feed future fungi. Use a more diluted mixture on softer, more porous woods like cedar.** Example: Use a mixture of 1 part bleach to 5 parts water. On heavily weathered wood, you may need to use a 1:3 mixture.

If you will be staining your logs with a water-based stain, use a compatible cleaner such as Super Bio-Strip which will not cause a chemical reaction with the stain. After cleaning, you will notice a woody pulp on the surface. This can be removed by hand with a 3-M stripping pad or a quicker method is using an Osborn buffing brush on an angle grinder or car buffer. Usually two brushes are required for a house. If you did not use sap-stain control, you may notice sap-stain, a blue, red or brown coloration deep in the wood. These are permanent stains and can not be removed.

**NOTE:** When cleaning logs, work from bottom and go up so that any material running down is hitting a wet surface or you will have streaks. A hand held sprayer works well for applying cleaning agents but rinse thoroughly after use.

**HEAVY DUTY CLEANING:** Dissolve 1/2 cup TSP in 2 gallons of hot water. Set pail on paper to avoid ring marks.

**WALLS AND WOODWORK** - squeeze excess cleaner from sponge or cloth and wash from bottom up to avoid streaking. A second washing may be needed. Rinse cleaned area with clean warm water.

**FLOORS** - wring excess cleaner from mop or sponge and wash floor in small areas. Rinse with clean warm water and wipe up excess water. DO NOT allow water or TSP solution to stand in puddles.

**MILDEWED DECKS AND SIDING:** Remove by washing with solution of 1 cup of TSP dissolved in 3 quarts of warm water and add 1 quart fresh chlorine bleach. Use solution to scrub area thoroughly, using scrub brush or coarse rags. The bleach kills fungus growth and removes stains. TSP removes dirt and grime and wets surface so that the bleach can work. If stain remains, use second application. (**NOTE:** Treat entire area, not just the stain.) When mildew is gone, rinse thoroughly with clean, warm water and dry surface completely before painting. This solution will not stop future mildew growth. Use mildew resistant paints where fungus has been a problem. If fungus grows on mildew resistant paint promptly consult with paint manufacturer before removing the fungus.

**FYI:** Average elemental phosphorous content 7.3% in the form of phosphates. Equivalent to 8.5 grams per 1/2 cup.



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