

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

(please always do a test patch before full use of both Cleaner and Sealer)

SEMCO CLEANER

You need the following items:

Two buckets

1 Green washing up scourer (Sainsbury's is ideal)

1 Vegetable Brush (Asda's is ideal). The brush should be a nylon short bristled brush, fairly stiff (only needed if the teak is very greyed or dirty).

Cloth for each bucket

Semco 2 Part Cleaner

Thoroughly wet an area of approximately 2-3 ft square . Using the green scouring cloth completely saturate the green cloth with Part 1 cleaner (Red) and wipe cloth over wetted area. You will see the wood start to go red. Using the brush (if needed), scrub in the direction of the grain and you will start see the dirt pulling out of the wood. Once scrubbed with the brush, then use the green scouring cloth and again rub in the direction of the grain.

These two scrubbing processes remove the dirt and then remove the grey from wood. You should now have dirty residue on top of the wood. Using a cloth from the first bucket, wipe up all excess dirt.

Now saturate the green cloth with Part 2 (green) and wipe this over the same area, you will see the wood starting to lighten and brighten.

Repeat the same two scrubbing processes i.e. scrubbing with brush (if needed) then green scourer.

Once finished, wipe up any residue and then using the second clean bucket of water, give a complete wipe over removing all chemicals and dirt.

You now repeat this process until the whole area (deck) is clean.

Remember to overlap each area so that you do not accidentally leave a line in between each part cleaned. Once you have finished cleaning, leave the wood to dry for 24hrs or if extra hot, then just make sure it is thoroughly dry.

NOTE

The cleaner appears not to have a shelf life although it may lose its colouring but the cleaner will work as before. Take care to keep the cleaner from all alloys as it can have an affect on them!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

(please always do a test patch before full use of both Cleaner and Sealer)

SEMCO SEALER

The wood must be completely dry, preferably leave for 24hrs but in very hot weather (70s upwards) it would dry much quicker but it should still be left for a minimum of 4 hrs.

Have two cloths, one to put on and one to wipe smudges off.

Make sure you thoroughly stir the contents of the tin, especially 50/50 mixes as the pigments must be completely mixed in to give an even finish. Keep stirring all through the application process.

Using a piece of cloth (or sponge), wipe the sealer in the direction of the grain onto the wood. It goes on like water and you must let the wood take as much as it needs but do not leave any puddling as this will leave a stain. If the wood does not take a lot on first application, then a second coat can be applied once dry but do not over use. The sealer is very easy to put on and takes about a quarter of the time it takes to clean. **Keep stirring the tin at all times.**

If you get sealer where you do not want it, wipe it off straight away with your clean cloth. If you should leave any on the GPR/other surfaces and it dries on, a little bit of Jiff soon removes it. Semco Sealer is touch dry in one hour and ready for use after twenty four hours.

CONCLUSION

I have tried my best to describe the way we work with the product above. A boat of about 40ft takes between 6-10 hours to clean depending on the state of the teak, and a couple of hours to seal. It is hard work but the overall effect is well worth it. You do have to get on hands and knees for this and knee pads are a good idea.

NOTE:

Although we have now improved the tins with a special grey coating, it is possible for the sealer to have a lesser shelf life than the cleaner, however if untouched it will keep for a long time, once opened it is best if it is used within the year. To try to avoid losing unused sealer we suggest the following:-

Decant smaller amounts into a separate container for use so as not to contaminate the sealer and once finished with the sealer try to make sure that the lid is on completely air tight as it is a little like paint and can go off. We cannot guarantee that the sealer will keep but following these guidelines should help.

Teakwood (teak) comes from a tropical deciduous forest tree native to Southeast Asia. The Teakwood tree, a member of the Vervain family of Verbanaceae (*Tectona Grandis*), depleted from the natural forests, is now grown on plantations in India, Burma, Thailand and the island of Java.

Almost every part of the Teakwood tree is used. The wood is highly valued because of its beautiful grain and colour and is used in shipbuilding and furniture making. Teak is strong and durable, almost immune to decay, and contains an oil that is resistant to insects. The Teakwood tree grows to 150 ft. (46m) in height and is 3 to 8 ft (0.9 to 2.4m) in diameter at the base. The leaves are among the largest in the world, 2 ft. (61cm) long and 1.5 ft (46cm) wide, they yield a purple dye and are used for thatching and wrapping. Teakwood leaves are so rough to the touch that they are used for sandpaper in Asia. The tree also has tiny white flowers that grow in clusters and a small fruit the size of a cherry that contains oily seeds.

Teakwood trees are so dense and heavy that the logs will not float when freshly cut. Before they were plantation grown, the trees were girdled in the forest and left standing to dry out for two years before harvesting, then cut and dragged from the wild forests by elephants and water buffalo and floated down rivers to market.

Long treasured for the beauty of its grain, golden colour and timeless durability, teak has been a favoured material for use aboard ships and yachts and for use in outdoor furniture. Teak used as decking in the marine industry has the added benefit of being slip resistant even when wet.

When teak is exposed to the sun and weather, the natural oils migrate to the surface of the wood. The sun oxidises this oil and turns the surface a silver-gray colour. Over extended periods of time this process depletes the wood of its natural oils causing surface roughness and checking (cracks along the grain of the wood) and the oxidized surface oil will provide fertile ground for the growth of mildew and fungus. This process, along with the erosion caused by the wind and rain, will eventually make the surface dirty, unsightly and very rough to the touch.

Ancient sailors overcame this problem in earlier times by washing the decks of ships with seawater, sand and pumice stones. This method was back breaking and resulted in many mutinies. In an English Garden setting outdoor furniture left to its natural grey fits the setting and blends beautifully with the surroundings but many modern yachtsmen, cruise ship operators and teak furniture owners have sought methods of restoring the natural beauty of their teak wood.

SEMCO Teak Products was invented in America in 1978 by our founder Lawrence Serra the major use of our products is in the marine industry but we have discovered over the recent past many owners of teak furniture desire to restore and maintain the rich honey colour of the wood that it has when it is new.

To preserve the teak in its natural colour for an extended period of time SEMCO is proud to offer our **SEMCO Teak Sealer**. SEMCO Teak Sealer is a solvent based teak finish with water-like viscosity containing pigments, mildewcide, UV inhibitors and moisture protection. SEMCO does not contain silicone, varnish, polymers or exotic oils. **When** SEMCO Teak Sealer is properly applied to teak, the wood will look as if it has nothing on it, yet it will not turn grey or support the growth of mildew. Surface soil can be washed away with mild detergent, and with seasonal recoating the teak will be preserved in its natural state for many years.

There are a variety of "teak oils" on the market for the protection of teak, these usually consist of linseed mixed with mineral spirits. When first applied to the wood these oils impart a nice finish to the wood, but left outdoors teak oils wear away in weeks and require re-coating. With each re-coat the oiled finish becomes darker and the surface becomes sticky and collects dirt. The organic waste from these oils provides a wonderful garden the growth of mould and mildew. In a very short period of time the wood requires a complete re-cleaning.

Varnish, polyurethane and polymer finishes apply a coating to the wood that will eventually be pushed off by the natural teak oil coming to the surface. The owner is then faced with the major job of stripping and sanding the teak before re-finishing.

If teak has been allowed to weather, the grey and any mildew must be removed before finishing the wood. The cleaning process is harsh on the wood and may contribute to a rough surface if repeated many times.

When teak is newly milled or has been sanded with a mechanical sander the heat from those processes will burnish or polish the natural oils in the wood. The dust created from sanding teak is very fine and oily, it will clog the pores of the wood. These two phenomena cause the "waxy" feeling the wood has when it is new. This burnished oil and dust must be removed prior to finishing. The finish will not soak into the burnished areas and the dust will absorb the finish and eventually be washed away causing a blotchy appearance.

To clean weathered teak, SEMCO offers SEMCO Two Part Teak Cleaner. This product is easy to use and will produce dramatic results. SEMCO Two Part Teak Cleaner will remove teak oils, food stains, the residue of varnish, and SEMCO Teak Cleaner. Any solid surface coating like varnish must be removed before using Two Part Cleaner. Never use a brass brush or pressure washer to clean teak, these methods will scour the soft grain of the wood causing a rough and splintery surface. Never use steel wool to clean teak because it will produce rust spots in the wood. Brass wool is acceptable but a Scotch Brite Pad/Sainsburys Green Scourer is the best tool to clean teak.

If the teak is already finished with SEMCO Teak Sealer this type of cleaning is not necessary unless you want to remove the SEMCO and start again.

For new teak cleaning with two part cleaner is not necessary, however the "waxy" feeling of newly milled wood must be gone before finishing. To prepare new wood for finishing one of two methods may be employed. Either teak can be allowed to weather for a few weeks, just until it begins to lose its colour, or the process can be accelerated by washing the wood with a strong detergent such as Washing Powder but make sure all the residue is removed otherwise a white powder will remain.

When the grain of the wood is open and the waxy feeling gone, the wood is ready to be finished with SEMCO Teak Sealer. **When** SEMCO Teak Sealer is applied to the teak and it has had a week or two to weather, the wood will appear as it has "nothing" on it, yet the teak will not turn grey or allow the growth of mildew. **After cleaning** and sealing with SEMCO the first time, an occasional cleaning with soap, water and soft brush and fresh coat of Sealer applied seasonally will keep the teak looking great for years to come. If water dashed on the surface beads up, then the SEMCO is still working and does not need re-coating.

Avoid applying SEMCO too often as the finish will build up and mask the grain of the wood. A harsh environment or higher usage may shorten the intervals of maintenance required.

SEMCO Teak Sealer is manufactured in several shades. The most popular choice for our furniture customers is **SEMCO ½ & ½** a mixture of SEMCO Goldtone and SEMCO Natural. This shade gives the wood the rich "honey" colour, the colour of the wood when it is new.

SEMCO **also** offers several other shades that may be used to produce any desired look on the wood. **SEMCO Goldtone** will give the wood the "reddish brown" colour of new teak. **SEMCO Natural** will give the wood the "sandy tan" colour of weathered teak which is the most popular on boat decks. **SEMCO Classic Brown** will give the wood the "dark brown" colour of teak when wet. Any of the colours can be mixed to achieve an intermediate shade. **SEMCO Clear Tone** contains no pigment therefore not as resistant to the elements and requires more frequent re-coating.

While the SEMCO Teak Sealer is resistant to the weather and most stains, some oily or greasy food may stain the surface of the wood. The best method to clean these stains is dish soap (fairly liquid) or a spot clean with SEMCO Part Two Cleaner for any stubborn spots. Many oily stains from things such as crisps will possibly fade eventually anyway.

SEMCO also offers a new product that will aid in preserving the surface of the wood and provides a shine to the finished surface. **SEMCO Clear Coat Gloss** will provide a more impervious surface improving stain resistance and impart a rich patina to the teak. SEMCO Clear Coat Gloss can be applied by itself or over SEMCO Teak Sealer. It will darken whatever shade the wood is slightly.

Listed below are other SEMCO products:

SEMCO Low VOC Teak Sealer provides the same great protection with soap and water clean up. Extra Environmentally Friendly Protection.

SEMCO Cable and Fender Cleaner will clean and grease or tar stains from fenders, bumpers or shore cables. It will also remove dried Teak Sealer from fiberglass.

Teak is unmatched in its beauty and durability. With little care it will last many years, with a little Semco it will remain looking like new as well. SEMCO works in a similar fashion on other types of wood such as Iroko, Mahogany, Redwood, Ash, Jatoba and Butternut. SEMCO Teak Products are used in many commercial applications such as outdoor restaurants, hotels, cruise ships, theme parks and some very special residences that have teak doors and trim details. SEMCO is also used by many manufacturers of boats, furniture and canoes.

SEMCO Teak Italy welcomes the opportunity to discuss any individual application or question about Semco products. Please feel free to forward any of your requests at info@semcoteak.it or see the the latest news online visiting www.semcoteak.it or checking our Social accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

SEMCO TREATMENT AFTERCARE

Firstly, we would like to thank you for choosing Semco Teak Products to clean and seal your decks/furniture. We think you will find that you have made the right choice.

It is important that now you have beautiful teak, that it stays that way and if you follow these few guidelines, there is no reason why it should not.

The first point to remember is not to use hard bristles or scrubbing brushes now that the teak is pristine. If you do you will take off that important seal and the teak will start to grey in no time.

Just put a small amount of washing up liquid into the bucket and wash the teak over with your soft brush/broom, then just hose off the soapy water. It is as simple as that.

The second point to remember is that every season you need to look at the teak and decide if it needs a top up coat of Semco Sealer. It is best to keep it topped up as the sealer keeps the dirt and grey out of the wood and therefore means that you do not have to start from scratch and on some boats it may mean topping up every four months.

Sealing is very quick and easy to apply and the effect is well worth the effort.

Please also remember not to leave ropes and other items lying on the teak as this will possibly leave marks and ruin the overall look.

Supplies can be ordered by telephone, fax or E-mail.

COSHH SHEETS/MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

SEMCO TEAK CLEANER

SECTION 1 - MANUFACTURER

Serra Engineering and Manufacturing Company
Inc
P O Box 323
Phoenix, Maryland
21131 USA

Emergency and Information Telephone number
+1-800-662-0223

Prepared 10-1-1995

SECTION 2 - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

Hazardous Components	Cas. No.	OSHA-PEL	ACGIH - TLV
Sodium Hydroxide	1310-73-2	2 mg/m3	2 mg/m3
Phosphoric Acid	7664-38-2	1 mg/m3	1 mg/m3

SECTION 3 - PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Boiling point	212F	Specific Gravity	1
Vapour pressure	NE	Melting Point	NA
Vapour Density	NE	Evaporation Rate	NA
Water Solubility	Complete	Appearance and Odour	Clear liquid
% Volatile by Volume	NA	VOC (Grams/litre)	NA

SECTION 4 - FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

Flash Point	NONE	Special Firefighting Procedures: None
Flammable Limits LEL	NA	Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards: Closed containers may explode if exposed to extreme heat.
Flammable Limits UEL	NA	
Extinguishing Media	NA	

SECTION 5 - REACTIVITY DATA

Stability: Stable

Incompatibility: Oxidizers, Acids

Conditions to Avoid: Excessive heat, contact with oxidizers

Hazardous Decomposition Products:

Hazardous Polymerization: Will not occur

SECTION 6 - HEALTH HAZARD DATA

Primary Routes of Exposure: Inhalation, Skin Contact, Eyes, Ingestion

Effects of Overexposure and Emergency and First Aid Procedures:-

Inhalation: Irritation of respiratory tract. Remove to fresh air. Restore and support continued breathing

Skin Contact: Irritation of skin. Wash off with water then soap and water.

Eye Contact: Irritation of eyes. Flush immediately with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes.

Ingestion: May cause vomiting, diarrhoea, central nervous system depression, kidney damage. Obtain medical treatment.

Always seek medical attention if irritation persists.

SECTION 7 - PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFE HANDLING AND USE

Steps to be taken in case material is released or spilled: Comply with all applicable health and environmental regulations.

Ventilate area. Recover free product, collect balance with absorbent material. Dispose of waste and containers according to applicable regulations.

Storage and Handling: Store material below 100F, close containers and store upright when not in use.

SECTION 8 - SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

Ventilation: Provide sufficient mechanical ventilation to main exposure below PEL AND TLV. Vapours are heavier than air and will collect in low areas.

Respiratory Protection: Use if exposure limits are exceeded.

Personal Protective Equipment: Wear safety glasses or goggles and impervious gloves.

Other precautions: Use only with adequate ventilation. Do not take internally. Keep out of reach of children. Avoid contact with skin, eyes and breathing of vapours. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Avoid conditions which result in formation of inhalable particles such as spraying of sanding. Always test for compatibility with conditions and surfaces.

SECTION 9 - TRANSPORTATION

For Transportation this item is classed as a non-hazardous material

COSHH SHEETS/MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

SEMCO TEAK SEALER (all tones/colours)

SECTION 1 – MANUFACTURER

Serra Engineering and Manufacturing Company
Inc
P O Box 323
Phoenix, Maryland
21131 USA

Emergency and Information Telephone number
+1-800-662-0223

Prepared 10-1-1995

SECTION 2 - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

Hazardous Components	Cas. No.	OSHA-PEL	ACGIH - TLV
Petroleum Distillates	64742-47-8	100 ppm	100 ppm
Kieselguhr	61790-53-2	6 mg/m ³	10 mg/m ³

SECTION 3 - PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Boiling point	310F	Specific Gravity	.87
Vapour pressure	2MMHG /20C	Melting Point	NA
Vapour Density	5	Evaporation Rate	.15
Water Solubility	Negligible	Appearance and Odour	Opaque Liq/st.odour
% Volatile by Volume	75%	VOC (Grams/litre	690 GPL

SECTION 4 - FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

Flash Point	150'	Special Firefighting Procedures: Use protective equipment to protect from combustion products.
Flammable Limits LEL	0.7	
Flammable Limits UEL	7.0	Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards: Closed containers may explode if exposed to extreme heat.
Extinguishing Media	Foam/CO ₂	

SECTION 5 - REACTIVITY DATA

Stability: Stable

Incompatibility: Oxidizers, Acids

Conditions to Avoid: Excessive heat, contact with oxidizers

Hazardous Decomposition Products: Carbon Monoxide, Carbon Dioxide

Hazardous Polymerization: Will not occur

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SECTION 9 - TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for this item: Quote UN 1263 HS Tarrif No.309
