Brookridge Timber
A Division of the Brookridge Group

KOPPERS

Colour Evolution of the MicroShades Light-Brown Colour System

MicroShades Light-Brown is an innovative colour system developed for use in Micronized preservative systems. It comprises a blend of micronized pigments,combined with an azo-dye.

The azo-dye provides uniform consistent colour across the boards, immediately after treatment, and fades when exposed to weathering. The chemistry of the micronized pigments, meanwhile, allows them to react with UV light to enrich within the first few weeks of exposure from a dull orange to a vibrant golden brown. The combined result is a vibrant and bright colour system which gives considerably longer colour life than traditional dye systems.

Figure 1: Freshly treated MicroShades Light-Brown treated posts.

Immediately after treatment, boards can vary from medium to dark brown, depending on the substrate (as demonstrated in Figure 1). The boards will then become lighter as the boards dry. The speed of colour change is dependent upon on the air flow around the packs, temperature, and humidity during this initial drying period.

Before installation, boards can have an almostmatt medium-brown appearance, typical of azo-dyes (similar to those shown in Figure 2). Until the boards are exposed to UV light, the micronized pigments remain largely inactive, however once installed, the az-odye will start to fade as the micronized pigments enrich.

Figure 2: MicroShades Light-Brown treated boards, prior to installation, before UV exposure has enriched the micronized pigments.

The rate of colour change will vary depending upon UV exposure, however after a few weeks, the matt light-brown hue will have evolved into a vibrant golden-brown (as demonstrated in Figure 3). Due to this colour evolution, it is not uncommon for cladding on sites (even installed on the same building) to have varying appearance immediately after installation. These differences will even-out with UV exposure to a more uniform, long lasting colour across the site.

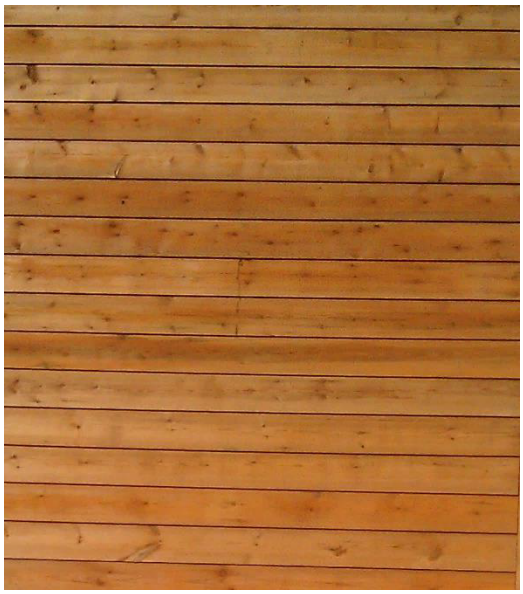

Figure 3: MicroShades Light-Brown treated boards, several weeks after installation. The Azo-dye has faded and the Micronised pigments have enriched to a golden hue.

The vibrant golden brown of the MicroShades Light-Brown colour system has been shown to last significantly longer than traditional dyed colour systems. Colour life is dependent on timber species, usage rate, and external exposure conditions, including orientation and direction of installation.