



Timber treatment and gate care is important. Quality wooden gates are an investment and so it makes sense to look after them correctly to ensure they continue to look good and last for years. The timber in our wooden gates is a natural product reacting to the weather conditions and aspect that they are in, particularly heat and humidity. Wood has a natural tolerance in terms of how much it can expand and contract before succumbing to warping or shrinkage. It is for this reason that we recommend you treat all our planed timber gates with Restol™ Natural UV Extra Wood Oil. The oil contains an active UV filter that preserves the colour of the wood. Any outdoor wood that is sealed with oil at least once every year will repel water. Oil also stops the wood from drying out unevenly, which can lead to warping. Gates will last longer and look better than timber that is simply left to the elements.

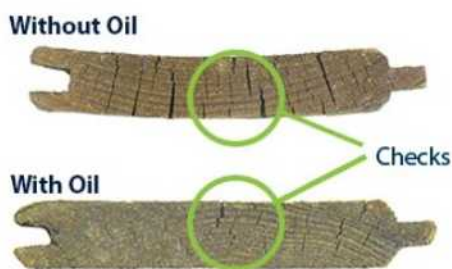


Why Recommend Oil?

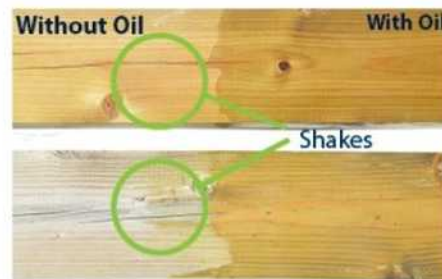
Timber has a natural tolerance in terms of how much it can expand & contract before succumbing to warping/shrinkage. It is for this reason that Charltons recommend that you treat all of our planed timber gates with Restol™ Natural UV Extra Wood Oil.

Modern UV wood oils are scientifically formulated from natural oils, resins, solvents & chemicals to make them longer lasting & faster drying i.e. more durable than traditional oils. The oils essentially “fill” the microscopic holes as it is absorbed into the wood and stops deterioration.

It is also quite common for small splits (shakes and checks) to occur during drying; this is nature at work and should not be considered a fault. However, as you can see from the images below, the application of oil can considerably reduce the appearance of checks and shakes in the wood. It can also reduce warping. These pressure treated softwood samples had just one coat of oil and were left outside in a sunny aspect for 12 months. Oil helps to control the absorption/evaporation of the moisture content of the wood. An added benefit of using oil is that it is relatively easy to apply and maintain.



The wood without oil has more checks and is warped



The wood without oil has more shakes



Water is absorbed into the wood without oil



Water beads on wood treated with Restol Oil

The images below highlight wooden gates that have not been treated with oil and not been properly maintained.



This gate has been poorly maintained. Water has ingressed and started to damage the gate.



This gate has been treated with preservative but not with Oil. The water is soaking into the top of the gate.

Softwood

Softwood Courtyard & Driveway Gates

Our Redwood Softwood Courtyard & Driveway Gates are made using slow grown kiln dried timber and incorporate gate weather features. Charltons treat the gates with 2 coats of preservative before leaving our premises. It is important to treat your gates with Restol™ Natural UV Extra Wood Oil **before hanging** them out in the elements. This prevents moisture ingress, which can cause swelling and warping. Make sure that any cut outs and drill holes are also treated with preservative and oil.

If you wish to add colour to you gate a tinted oil can be applied after this. Hanging your gates out to weather for any period of time prior to applying oil the gates will have chance to absorb water, become water stained, start to grey and can lead to movement and rotting in the wood. This would immediately invalidate any warranty. **We do not recommend paint as a maintenance regime for your gates.**

Pressure Treated Softwood gates

Pressure treatment protects the timber against wood rot and insect attack. These treatments do not provide all round protection against weathering. The elements and UV rays will slowly degrade the effectiveness of the pressure treatment.

We therefore recommend that all planed timber gates are treated with Restol™ Natural UV Extra Wood Oil. This is particularly important when hanging a pair of 5 Bar gates as it will help alleviate potential warping due to weathering and UV rays.

Hardwood

Charltons Hardwood driveway gates are made from Iroko. This wood is far more durable than softwood. However, it still needs treating to ensure that gates do not warp or become water stained. Using oil will also preserve the colour of the gates for longer.

Charltons recommend that two coats Restol™ Natural UV Extra Wood Oil (suitable for planed timber). **Oil should be applied before the gates are hung** and put out in the natural elements and not after the gates have been hung and weathered for any period. The gates should be wiped down with white spirit prior to treating with oil to allow the oil to bond better with the wood.

Some wood oil manufacturers state that hardwood needs to weather off (for approx. 6 weeks) after installation. Thereby, the wood becomes absorbent and the wood finish adheres optimally. **However**, due to the British weather, gates are exposed to strong weathering so it will be very difficult to maintain a maximum moisture content of 20% and avoid staining. This is why **Charltons recommend that treatment is applied before the gates are hung.**

Having spent money on a hardwood gate for your property, it makes sense to ensure that your investment is given the best possible protection to keep it looking good; if it is well maintained there is no reason why a quality hardwood gate should not last a lifetime.

We do not recommend paint as a maintenance regime for your gates.

Treatment Tips

- Apply a preservative (where necessary) making sure that all drill holes and cut outs are treated as well and allow to dry.
- Apply UV Oil prior to fitting your gates to avoid moisture ingress (including the drill holes and cut outs).
- Apply the oil using a flat brush. For the best results brush the oil along the grain following the length of the wood.
- Make sure you apply oil to the end grain and bottom of timbers well as they are most susceptible to sucking in water (Modern oil treatments allow the wood to breathe so you do not need to leave any part of the gate untreated.) Apply two coats and allow to dry in between coats.
- Try your chosen oil/tinted oil before you start – try it on a scrap wood first.
- Use a natural quality brush or you will be forever removing loose bristles.
- Treat each side of the gate in the same time period. Oiling one side of a gate and leaving it to dry before treating the other side puts your gate at risk of twisting or warping as it will create an unequal surface tension within the timber. The non-oiled side will try and absorb moisture, which could cause movement within the timber.
- Brush out any runs or drips straight away.
- Make sure you also treat your posts with the oil. This will also reduce any naturally occurring splits & checks in the post and reduce any potential movement.
- How often should I treat my gates? Wood oils penetrate in to the wood grain to replace the natural oils lost over time so it is a good idea to check gates and apply oil regularly. This should be part of your yearly garden maintenance, but the best way to tell if you need to treat your gates is to check to see if water beads on the wood. If the water does not bead then it is time for the gate to be oiled.

For further information or FAQ's regarding Restol Oil please visit <http://restolwoodoil.co.uk/natural-uv-extra-wood-oil/>