

Restoring your log or wood home to its original glory can be as simple as blasting it with either cob, walnut shells, sand or glass then applying appropriate finishing techniques and stains.

Knowing which media to use – and when to use it – is vital to ensuring a proper restoration process, says Cedar Laine Restoration project manager Tyler Thrush. Cob blasting is the least abrasive and the most environmentally friendly: it is literally a corn cob core, with the food source – the kernels and exterior cob – eliminated before being broken down to blast.

“But, sometimes you need a grittier material and that’s where sand or glass enter the picture,” says Tyler, who has 15 years of experience restoring homes. “Choosing

the appropriate substance is the difference between restoring a building and potentially causing more damage.”

Cedar Laine Restoration has been reviving old wood items since 1988, restoring home and cottage exteriors as well as interior cabinets, floors, ceilings and walls. Their team has a combined 65 years in the business.

Cob has been Cedar Laine’s main media since Tyler joined the business. He says they have never had an issue with mold or mildew growth – or infestations – due to their cob blasting.

“We’ve tried all the media and have found cob to be the best,” he says. “It’s good for the environment and is cost-effective.”

The process starts by blasting the structure to open the

pores of the wood. This removes the old finishes and provides a solid surface for the stain to be applied later. Blasting is followed by manual sanding of window trims, door trims, hand rails and other hard-to-reach areas. Then comes a (low pressure) power wash, which incorporates a biodegradable solution designed to kill fungi or mildew.

“Any woodworker will tell you a good cleaning is necessary to eliminate dust and dirt after sanding,” says Tyler. “The same goes for blasting with any media. It needs to be cleaned to properly apply stain.”

In almost all cases, Cedar Laine uses a high-quality Wood Oil finish and applies it by hand. The product they use can be applied on damp wood, making a low moisture content irrelevant.

# GOOD AS NEW

## Bring new life to aging timber

“The waiting time between the wash and the stain is usually one-day in normal conditions,” says Tyler. “Our wet-wood friendly stain also looks great and performs well.”

“We take worn, rough looking buildings and bring them back to a like-new appearance,” he says. “Once we’re done, it’s like you’ve got a new home.” **DS**

Tyler says around 30 per cent of their clients come from repeat business or referrals. They each say they’re happy with the service and the results.

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