

Giving new life

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW FEARMAN

Chris Rumball, Founder and Project Manager Tylor Thrush of Cedar Laine Restoration



Treatment can transform faded home components

Mildewed siding, worn hardwood floors, tired kitchen cabinets – it can be tempting to think there’s nothing you can do to make them look good short of starting over and replacing them with something new. Don’t let temptation sway you. All of them can be restored to their former glory easier than you might think and the transformation is nothing less than spectacular.

Blast away the past

Time, wear, moisture, dust and grime, and – for outdoor surfaces – the sun’s rays all take their toll on wood, leaving an outer layer that is unpleasant to

look at. But hidden beneath is the beautiful and warm essence that makes wood so popular both indoors and out. All you have to do is expose it to bring it back to life.

That’s where a wood restoration company comes in. Using environmentally-friendly techniques and materials, they can remove years of accumulated stains, dirt, surface damage, and more.

“The results really are quite dramatic,” says Chris Rumball, owner of Cedar Laine Restoration. “Even wood that is blackened from mould and mildew can be made to look new again.”

Beautiful results

Cob blasting – akin to sand blasting but with a ground corn cob product called Maizorb, a gentler medium – is the most effective way to make a wood surface glow again, says Chris. Cedar Laine used the environmentally-friendly technique on the Huntsville project pictured on these pages with striking results.

It’s a mesmerizing process to watch. With each pass of the wand, the worn or stained outer surface is removed with the ease of an eraser on a pencil drawing, leaving behind a good-as-new surface that can be treated or stained however you want. “Blasting doesn’t just

remove stains and dirt,” says Chris. “It opens the pores of the wood so that the surface will readily accept a stain.”

Better yet, Grit-o’Cobs is a natural product which contains no chemicals so it won’t harm the plants and animals outside your cottage. Much of the blasting material can even be recovered and reused.

The results always get a glowing review. “People often can’t believe the difference,” says Chris. “We hear words like ‘remarkable’ and ‘amazing’ all the time. They don’t think their cottage could ever look like new but by the time we’re done, it does.” **DS**

BY DAWN HUDDLESTONE



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