

# OILED MACROCARPA AND LAWSON'S CYPRESS TIMBERS IN EXTERNAL SITUATIONS

Cupressus Macrocarpa or Monterey cypress (more often known as just Macrocarpa) is a species of the genus Cupressus, which includes C. Lusitanica, the Mexican cypress. In the same family, is the genus Chamaecyparis, the best-known species being C. Lawsoniana, commonly known as either Lawsoniana or Lawson's cypress. They are all natives of North America – not New Zealand.

These timbers, by nature, contain extractive oils and resins, which can oxidise on exposure to UV light (especially if the timber is wet), causing the timber to darken, or go black. This blackening is especially evident in areas of high humidity and moisture such as the Waikato, Northland and Auckland. Wet timber can also contain mould spores, which may cause blackening of the timber as well. This blackening occurs in most cases **behind** the oil. (Remember – Organoil exterior oils are either clear, or semi transparent, and any discolouration of the timber will be visible through the oil.)

A simple test can determine whether any blackening is caused by oxidation of the timber, or is environmental pollution (dust, dirt, mould spores, vehicle exhaust etc) sitting on the surface of the timber. Using a chlorine based product such as "Exit Mould", apply some to a small portion of the affected timber using a cotton bud. If the blackening disappears immediately, it is sitting on the surface, and is probably environmental pollution. (The blackening can be removed using a pressure water cleaner, or washing the timber with an alkaline salt such as NapiSan). If however, the timber remains black, it is likely mould spores were already in the timber when the oil was applied, or the timber has oxidised. In these two cases, the blackening is **behind** the oil.

Because Natural Oils Ltd is predominantly a wholesale supplier, the end user and/or use of our products is generally outside of our knowledge, control or advice. However, the following points may be of assistance:

- Anti mould products such as VCI75 or Copper 8 may be added to any of the exterior oils, if the integrity of the timber is in question. Such products, however, will not stop environmental wind borne pollution such as dust, dirt, or mould spores attaching to, and discolouring the timber's surface. This discolouration usually occurs along the bottom edge of weatherboards and other vertical surfaces, or generally, over horizontal surfaces.
- The addition of a chemical anti oxidant may stop the extractive oils in the timber from oxidising and turning black behind the oil.
- Pre treatment of the timber with a weak solution of bleach may kill any mould spores present in the timber, without needing to add a chemical.
- Take care if using toxic additives, and collecting drinking water. Disconnect down pipes for any withholding period.
- **Organoil products should not be applied to any timber where the moisture content is above the New Zealand standard of 16%.**

Because Organoil products contain no petroleum products or toxic chemicals, our ethics will **not** allow us to include possibly toxic anti mould or anti oxidants in our oils. We leave this to our customer's discretion. Such additives should be available from reputable paint outlets.

If the timber's integrity is in question, and/or you (the customer) prefer not to add chemicals to the oil, then we recommended that Organoil products are **not** used on Macrocarpa, Lawson's Cypress or Lusitanica in exposed external areas with high humidity and moisture.