

## TIMBER GATE CARE & FINISHING GUIDE

### *For Southern Wire Timber Farm Gates*

Thank you for purchasing a Southern Wire Timber Farm Gate. With a little care, your gate will stay looking great and performing well for many years. This guide explains how to protect, finish, and maintain your gate after installation.

### WHY COAT THE TIMBER?

Your gate is made from **ACQ-treated pine**, which protects the timber from **rot, termites and fungal decay**.

However, ACQ does not protect the timber from sun, rain, or weathering.

For long-lasting appearance and reduced cracking or fading, we recommend applying a coating after the timber has settled.

**In short:** Treatment protects the *inside* of the timber — a coating protects the *outside*.

### WHEN SHOULD I PAINT OR STAIN?

The timber may still hold moisture from the treatment process. To ensure the coating bonds properly:

- Allow the gate to dry/season for a few weeks after installation
- Perform the **Water-Drop Test** before coating:
  - **Water soaks in:** Ready to paint or stain
  - **Water beads on the surface:** Wait longer to dry

*(Drying time varies depending on weather and sun exposure.)*

### WHAT PRODUCTS SHOULD I USE?

You can choose **paint** (maximum protection) or **stain** (natural timber look):

#### **Option 1: Exterior Paint – Best Weather Protection**

- Use a **premium exterior timber paint** suitable for treated pine
- Apply **1 primer coat + 2 top coats**
- Light/neutral colours reduce heat absorption and timber movement

#### **Option 2: Exterior Timber Stain/Oil – Natural Look**

- Use a **water-based exterior timber stain** suitable for treated pine
- Must include **UV and water protection**
- Reapply every **12–24 months** depending on exposure

**Avoid clear oil without UV protection** — it won't prevent fading or greying.

**Suitable Australian brands:** Cabot's, Intergrain, Feast Watson, Dulux Exterior, Wattyl (or your local rural/hardware store equivalents).

### PREPARATION BEFORE COATING

- Ensure the timber is dry and clean
- Lightly sand if needed to remove roughness or mill glaze
- Seal cut ends and exposed end grain thoroughly
- For best longevity, coat all sides of the gate, not just the front face

### ONGOING CARE & MAINTENANCE

To maximise the life of your gate:

- Keep the bottom rail clear of the ground to avoid constant moisture
- Rinse off dust, dirt or salt build-up occasionally
- Inspect hardware annually and lubricate hinges if required
- Touch up or recoat as needed (especially on high-sun or coastal sites)

### SUMMARY

Topic	Recommendation
Do I need to coat it?	Not mandatory, but highly recommended
Best finish	Exterior paint (primer + 2 coats) or water-based stain with UV protection
When to coat	After seasoning & passing the water-drop test
Maintenance	Clean, inspect hinges, recoat every 12–24 months

For any questions about care, coating, or hardware selection, please contact your store or Southern Wire for support.

**Southern Wire**

*Your Fencing Partner*