

Bellingham Painting Co.

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Deck staining in Bellingham, WA

Prices, moisture limits, and the dry window that sets your schedule

WHAT IT RUNS HERE

Deck staining in Bellingham, WA runs \$770 to \$2,000 for a standard deck, starting at \$3.85 per square foot. Most jobs take 2 to 4 days, and most of that is cleaning and waiting for boards to dry. Wood has to read below 15 percent moisture before stain goes on, which in practice means late June through September. Work carries a 1 year workmanship warranty. Call (360) 383-5454.

Free estimate, written scope

<https://bellingshampaintpros.com/guides/deck-staining>

(360) 383-5454

START HERE

What matters most

- A standard Bellingham deck runs \$770 to \$2,000 to stain, starting at \$3.85 per square foot, over 2 to 4 days.
- Benjamin Moore requires wood under 15 percent moisture for Arborcoat and TWP asks for 12 to 15 percent, checked with a meter.
- Arborcoat needs 40 degrees F air and surface, TWP 1500 needs 50 degrees F, and cleaning has to be followed by 48 hours of drying.
- Semi-transparent stain wears away on horizontal boards while solid stain peels and then has to be stripped, which costs more than the original job.
- Plan on recoating deck boards every 2 to 3 years in Bellingham and railings every 4 to 5.

THE NUMBERS

Deck staining price bands in Bellingham, WA

SCOPE	WHAT IT COVERS	BELLINGHAM RANGE
Starting rate	Per square foot of deck surface, sound boards, clean and stain	\$3.85 / sq ft
Typical standard deck	Clean, brighten, sand as needed, then stain boards, railings, and stairs	\$770 to \$2,000
Cleaning only, no stain	Low pressure wash of deck and house to pull off algae, moss, and mildew	\$385 to \$825
Deck plus a full exterior repaint	Both scheduled into one dry stretch with a single site setup	\$4,200 to \$9,350 plus \$770 to \$2,000
Commercial or multi-unit decking	Apartment walkways, landings, and railings priced by area	\$2.20 to \$6.60 / sq ft

Railing footage and whether the old finish has to be stripped move the price more than deck square footage does.

What it costs

A standard Bellingham deck runs \$770 to \$2,000 to stain, starting at \$3.85 per square foot of deck surface. Most jobs take 2 to 4 days, and most of that is cleaning and drying.

- Starting rate: \$3.85 / sq ft
- Typical standard deck: \$770 to \$2,000
- Cleaning only, no stain: \$385 to \$825
- Timeline: 2 to 4 days
- Warranty: 1 year workmanship

The two numbers that decide everything

Moisture content and temperature are what determine whether stain bonds or sits on top of the wood.

- Arborcoat requires wood below 15 percent moisture
- TWP 1500 asks for 12 to 15 percent
- Arborcoat minimum: 40 degrees F air and surface
- TWP 1500 minimum: 50 degrees F with no rain forecast
- 48 hours of drying after cleaning, plus two more days if it rains

Why a deck is harder than siding here

Bellingham takes about 36 inches of rain a year, mostly October through March. A wall sheds that water and a deck holds it.

- Algae and moss root in the gaps and hold water against the wood
- Wet and dry cycling raises the grain and leaves a fuzzy surface
- End grain at cut ends and joist tops wicks water first
- Summer UV grays and breaks down the top layer of wood

Picking the right stain

Four categories exist and only two belong on horizontal deck boards in this climate.

- Clear and toner: almost no UV protection, one season here
- Semi-transparent: the default for cedar decks, wears instead of peeling
- Semi-solid: good over weathered but sound boards
- Solid: excellent on railings, peels on deck boards
- Arborcoat covers 200 to 400 sq ft per gallon

Reading the bid

Deck bids come down to about five variables, and the price gap between two honest bids is almost always in the first one.

- Cleaning versus stripping the old finish
- Sanding, and at what grit
- Coat count and whether it is a wet on wet application
- Baluster faces, stair risers, and stringers included or not
- Board, screw, and rail post repair priced up front

Where finishes fail

Almost every deck failure here traces back to moisture, mill glaze, or skipped sanding.

- Peeling from solid stain on horizontal boards or staining over wet wood
- Blotchy color from unbroken mill glaze on new lumber
- Black spots returning from mildew that was removed but not killed
- Black streaks at plain steel fasteners in cedar
- Soft boards and rot at joist tops and the ledger

Keeping it between coats

Plan on recoating deck boards every 2 to 3 years in Bellingham and railings every 4 to 5.

- Sweep needles and leaves out of the board gaps each fall
- Wash the green film off every spring with deck cleaner and a brush
- Put planters on feet so they stop holding a wet spot
- Cut back branches that shade the deck
- Check the ledger and joist tops with a screwdriver on any deck past 15 years

Check these before you sign a deck staining bid in Bellingham

- ☐ Stain named on the contract by product and line, such as Arborcoat semi-transparent or TWP 1500.
- ☐ Cleaning and stripping priced separately so you know which one you are buying.
- ☐ At least 48 hours of drying built into the schedule between washing and staining.
- ☐ A moisture meter reading taken on the boards before stain goes on.
- ☐ Sanding called out for deck boards and rail caps, with a grit stated.
- ☐ Baluster faces, stair risers, and stringers explicitly included in the coverage.
- ☐ Board and fastener repair priced by the piece before work starts.
- ☐ Water drop test done on any new or smooth planed boards to confirm mill glaze is broken.
- ☐ Start date that falls inside the late June to September dry window.
- ☐ Fasteners confirmed as hot dipped galvanized, aluminum, or stainless if boards are being replaced.
- ☐ Warranty term in writing, which here is 1 year on workmanship.

Want a real number for your place?

We walk the job, measure it, and put the scope in writing. Free, and there is no pressure attached.

(360) 383-5454

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Full guide: <https://bellingshampaintpros.com/guides/deck-staining>

Prices shown are the ranges published on our website at the time of writing and are a starting point, not a quote. Every property is different. Figures update when the site does.