

Quality Deck Staining owner aims for perfection

by Mary Lou Rodgers

When you want it done, you want it done right. That's what Scott Stark of Quality Deck Staining thinks his customers expect, and what he tries to deliver.

Stark, who lives in the Elkhorn area near Indian Creek, is the sole proprietor of the business he started in 1998, and he takes pride in each job he does. He started the business part-time on weekends as he worked in a corporate environment as a software quality assurance person, but by 2002 he was ready to resign and make his business a full-time enterprise.

"I just love being outside," he said.

With all the decks in the Elkhorn, Omaha and Council Bluffs area, Stark is finding plenty to do. There are not many competitors who work the way he does.

"I get a lot of business because I apply product by brush," he explained. "A lot of people charge less, but when they spray on the stain, it can get on your house and your concrete and kill your grass."

Stark takes the time to cover every surface around the deck before he begins staining, then he takes his time, making sure the stain really penetrates the wood.

Brushing the stain on provides deeper and better protection than spraying and gives a smooth finish, he said. The stain products he uses stain and seal the deck at the same time, giving it protection from water, mold and mildew and the ultraviolet rays of the sun that turn wood gray.

For those who have decks, fences or gazebos that have turned gray from weathering, Stark can restore the appearance by lightly power washing the wood and applying stain. He can also do minor repairs, such as replacing a broken step or railing. When he's finished, it can look brand new. He also offers regular maintenance of a deck to help keep it in top shape.

"My repeat customers call me every two to four years," he said. "It depends on Mother Nature, the amount of traffic the homeowner puts on the deck, and how much sun the deck gets."

Stains come in a wide range of tones, but it's important that they contain a pigment of some kind, even if it's just a natural cedar tone, Stark pointed out. Clear protectants seal the wood from water and mildew, but like a suntan lotion with a low SPF rating,

they don't block out the sun's destructive rays.

"Pigment acts like a No. 30 suntan lotion," he said. "It keeps the wood from turning gray."

New decks have no protection and must be sealed, Stark said. He also stains wooden play systems. They have a factory water-based stain, but the sun burns it off quickly.

Stark also installs low-voltage deck lighting, and in the winter, he offers snow removal services.

As the owner and sole proprietor, he is the one who works on every single job.

"I treat every one just like it's my own," Stark said. "I make sure it's perfect every time."

For more information on Quality Deck Staining, call Scott Stark at 402-657-5283.

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