

## HOW WE TESTED

# Coat 'Em and Rack 'Em

The focus of this exterior wood coatings test is to evaluate three things: a product's ease of application; the integrity of its gloss and appearance; and how it fares over time under real world conditions.

The two-part varnishes were applied in the exact same manner as the other wood coatings being tested. Each two-part product was applied to a 2 x 5-inch teak panel cut from the same bare teak. Each product and each panel were assigned a number so that judging could be done blindly. The panels were prepared and the coatings applied per manufacturers' instructions.

Three PS testers rated the gloss of each

panel by its shine and reflective qualities. Ease-of-application ratings were based on how smoothly the product went on, how complete the instructions were, and how simple the process was.

The next step was to mount the panels on a rack with the one-part varnishes, synthetics, and stains that we've reported on this year. A portion of each panel is covered, so testers will have a control to compare weathered and protected finishes over time. Once all the panels are mounted on the rack, it will be set up at a 45-degree angle on an unobstructed roof. We will monitor the panels regularly and publish updates to let you know how well they're holding up.



*The rack: The exterior wood coatings that we're testing will all be mounted, and the rack will be left to weather South Florida's heat, humidity, rain, and occasional chill.*