



## CARE & MAINTENANCE

The greatest feature of Green Decking™ composite is that you can have a great performing deck without the ongoing need for staining, oiling, painting etc, and the deck will continue to last without rotting, cracking or splintering. However, being that it is a wood based decking it will only look its best if given some degree of care. The amount of care/attention required on your deck will be directly proportional to the local environment of the deck; an area surrounded by heavy foliage or prone to lots of dust will of course require more attention than a very open area where the environment has little effect, such as plant foliage.

## GENERAL CLEANING

A simple sweep of the deck area will generally prevent build-up of dirt and grime (or even leaves) that can lead to unwanted marks, stains and mould on your deck. Gaps between the boards should also be cleared of debris should this occur. A scrubbing brush with mild detergent and water then rinsed may be required for spills. As with timber, the longer your deck is dirty, the more work it will take to get it clean again.

For more heavy stained areas white vinegar or baking soda can work wonders but always test in an area that is not obvious first and always rinse off with water. “Sugar soap” or “Sard Wonder soap” have also proven to be good at removing dirt and grime. There are many products on the market that clean composite decking. Always follow the product instructions, check that it is suitable for wood/plastic compositions and do a test first.

If you have a BBQ on your deck, a good practice is to have a “splat mat” or “drop board” under the BBQ to catch fat spills rather than have it fall on to the deck.

If you have pot plants it is advisable that they do not sit directly on the deck boards; raise them or use saucers as you may get stain marks from overflow and occasionally move them to minimise shadow marks.

## WATER MARKS

Water stain marks can show on Green Decking™ boards. We have seen two types of water stains; both of which will generally disappear with exposure to a reasonable soaking of rain and general weathering.

Water stains from wood tannins will occur in the early life of your deck as the natural tannins come out of the wood fibres at the surface of the decking. This will happen in the early weeks of your deck, and will depend on how exposed to the elements your deck is before the weathering process is complete. Water stains from water pooling or dripping can happen with Green Decking™ just like it can with many other materials/surfaces such as timber flooring, glass, and outdoor materials. The visibility of the stain will be governed by factors such as how dirty the deck is and how quickly the water dries from the water pooling. Keeping your deck clean as mentioned above will reduce these effects.

## SCRATCHES

The brushed finish of Green Decking™ can be wire-brushed or sanded with coarse sandpaper to remove scratches. The area you brush will quickly fade out and hide your repair.

It is recommended that all furniture on Green Decking™ has protective feet e.g. rubber stoppers applied to the legs to help prevent scuffing or scratching of the deck surface.

## MOULD

Mould colonies can develop on any outdoor area; this is generally due to air-borne spores landing in an environment that promotes mould growth. A slower-working long-term environmentally friendly solution is applying a product known as “Wet and Forget” – this works well but takes several months to take full effect. As mould spores are airborne they may reappear at a later point in time. Regular attention to these areas will reduce the damage mould can cause if left untreated.

*As with any cleaning product be sure to follow instructions and do a test before using on the whole deck.*

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