



CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS — DECKER DESIGN

Decker requires very little maintenance.

Nevertheless, a regular cleaning routine is important in order to keep your deck looking good. Sweeping and cleaning with simple household cleaners are enough to keep your deck clean. Tough oil-based stains can typically be removed by water-diluted degreaser. Frequent cleaning of expansion joints is recommended too for appearance and longevity.

It is hard to damage Decker, but if it happens, it is disappointing!

Unlike wood, the product is near perfect, and so it is sometimes more noticeable.

We recommend the following advice to try and prevent damage, and if necessary resolve;

- ✓ Put rubber or protective feet on all your furniture and objects that are on the deck.
- ✓ Place an outdoor mat or protector by BBQs to avoid fat stains.
- ✓ Always clear the deck of debris before it builds up in the cracks and gaps (use a blower/vac or brush as often as necessary).
- ✓ Wash the deck regularly with a stiff bristled brush and low pressure water to avoid dirt build up.
- ✓ Consider using the embossed decking or tooth if there is a high risk of scratching or you have a large dog, as it will not show as much if it were to happen.

Water Marks

Are relatively common, especially in the first months as the composites bed in with natural weathering.

When installed, stains will appear from the natural wood tannins being released. If your deck is not directly exposed to the sun and rain, this process may take longer than a few weeks for the natural process to take effect.

If the decks are not built with clear water run offs or have constant dripping, water pooling will also create water stains as is the case with any other material.

DECKER

Staining is normally more prominent in lighter colours and will vary dependent upon how dirty the deck is; i.e. consider local flora and fauna by the deck which will make staining worse.

Please make special attention to avoid dripping and pooling of water on the deck to avoid excessive water stains. Water stains can normally be removed with a good clean if you find them unsightly.

Scratches and Scuffs

Any hard or sharp object will scratch or gouge the deck just like timber, so be careful to protect it.

Typically with weathering of the product where fully exposed, the scratches will fade within a couple of weeks to a point where no action is needed. If after a few weeks, they are still unsightly and noticeable, you can rub the scratched area with natural decking oil (or baby oil/etc) using a clean cloth. Remove the excessive oil after it has settled for a couple of minutes, and the marks should be much less noticeable.

On more serious marks (on brushed finish only), you can attempt to lightly brush the surface with a wire brush or some coarse sand paper and then use a cloth to apply natural decking oils. Be extremely careful, as this does take some practice to get right and we do not cover scratches or attempted repairs under warranty claims.

Over time when exposed to the weather, any scuffed or marked will fade back similar to the rest of the deck (typically 4-6 weeks is enough).

In the worst case, or if you have chipped the boards, you will have to remove and replace the damaged plank. We recommend keeping at least one spare board just in case this is ever required as it saves ordering another plank from us!

Cleaning & Stubborn Stains

It is still possible for Decker composites to stain, thus it is important to clean them as soon as a spill occurs. In addition, it is normal within the first three months when exposed to sun and rain, for the product to release natural tannins and this may cause some water-staining as the product weathers, like most



woods as mentioned before.

If you spill something, clean it up as soon as possible!

Always make sure the gaps are kept cleared of objects to allow for good drainage.

General cleaning using a hose and a firm brush will do the job typically very well.

- For more stubborn stains, use something similar to sugar soap.
- For oil stains such as fat or sunscreen, use a diluted degreaser to break down the stain (Be aware that certain degreasers such as Kenco can lighten the For stubborn water stains, please use an oxalic acid based cleaner such as Integrain Reviver in a diluted form. Please follow their instructions carefully to avoid discolouration.
- If your decks have mould, leaves or fruit stains you should use a cleaning agent containing detergents and sodium hypochlorite.
- If your decks have rust marks, you can use a cleaning agent containing phosphoric acid.

Always make sure to have tested any product in an inconspicuous area prior to application, as stains or damage caused by cleaners or oils are not covered under any warranty.

Mould

Although mould spores on Decker are extremely rare, in the right conditions as like on any surface, spores can grow. Initially, we recommend cleaning with normal tap pressure water and a firm bristle sweeping brush. If this is not able to clear the build-up, then you can try a product like wet and forget, or an oxalic based cleaner will typically clear mould spores. Decker is generally quite resistant to mould, however as it has a wood-fibre base, mould and mildew can grow on the deck in some circumstances and environments, or if it "sweats" under the plastic cover (especially in rain) before installation. Failure to keep packs dry in storage will lead to the growth of mould spores on boards.

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