

Care and maintenance of timber decking

It is important that you clean your deck regularly to keep it in good condition. Keeping it free from dirt minimises mould on the timber surface. Once a year in the minimum, though every 6 months is even better.

Cleaning

Depending on how you have finished your deck and/or if it is subject to heavy mould growth and dirt build up you could use warm soapy water (household detergent) up to a deck cleaner solution from your local hardware store. If so carefully follow all instructions applying deck cleaner to both vertical and horizontal surfaces of the deck and railings and allow the cleaner to sit for the recommended period of time.

Washing down

A pressure washer is the best tool for the job. Pressure washers deliver a concentrated blast of water — so don't overdo it.

Warning: Focusing for too long in one spot or holding the nozzle too close to the deck can damage the wood.

Repairs

Drive any protruding nails flush with the surface of the board or replace them with deck screws. Repair or replace boards that are badly deteriorated.

Finished Look

You can leave it to naturally weather, which means over time the timber will go grey or refinish it with a deck stain, paint or clear sealer. What ever finish you choose follow all instructions carefully and your deck should once again become a highlight of the home.



YOUR DECK AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Timber decks are generally exposed to various natural elements therefore weathering effects will occur in your deck. Timber responses such as cracking, shrinkage and cupping may be noticed over time. The main causes of this are the movement of moisture into and out of the timber and the effects of sunlight on a regular basis. This does not reflect a fault in the product just a natural response to the environment. Neither is the structural integrity compromised by these visual changes. Decking surfaces develop checks and cracks due to the ultra-violet rays of the sun breaking down lignin in the wood fibre and the repeated wetting and drying of timber, this means that in time it can result in surface degradation and dimensional changes.

To reduce the effects of this on your deck we recommend the Air Seasoning process shown below before installation.

If decking is installed while wet there may be size variations between boards especially noticeable when butting ends together, this is a function of the timber responding to the moisture and swelling accordingly.

We recommend using quality decking fasteners such as 12 gauge decking screws and consideration given to applying an oil based decking preservative to aid in water repelling.

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