

## Wooden decking - maintenance instructions

### Maintain your wooden decking regularly

The wooden terraces are luxurious and representative flooring. To keep best of your deck it is necessary to choose a good project and pay attention to its regular care.

Avoid the build-up of coarse dirt and avoid the possibility of mechanical damage to the wood. Provide chairs, tables and other furniture with protective pads to protect the wooden terrace against dents and abrasions. Regularly clean the terrace from dirt, soil, sediment and pollen. This will prevent dirt from entering the wood into the wood. Water and moisture settle under objects standing on the terrace, such as parasols, flower pots, bowls, doormats. There is no possibility of fast and natural drying of the wood and under these objects stains from long-term moisture and dirt can form. Therefore, carry objects standing on the terrace from time to time or ensure that there is natural drying and ventilation of the air under them. This will prevent the formation of dark spots on the wood.

Wood that can dry quickly after soaking will last longer than one that stays wet. Keep terrace boards free of infested leaves, pine needles and other impurities that can retain water and moisture, allowing the wood to dry sufficiently. Organic deposits, such as leaves, seeds or other impurities, can clog the gaps between the boards on the terrace, water can then form puddles and soak up organic deposits from which tannins can be released, which is further able to discolour the floor. These organic deposits are a powerful food source for mold. Keeping the patio area free of dirt is the easiest way to keep the floor clean. If gaps become clogged, remove deposits with a garden hose, shovel, trowel or similar tool to help preserve the life of the floor. In general, it will be better to use an electric garden blower or broom to remove scattered organic material such as leaves. Remove the accumulated dirt with a broom. Experienced professionals can use pressure washers at low pressures below 1,500 psi (10.3 MPa) at safe distances of at least 30 cm above the patio surface. Inexperienced hands could damage the terrace. Be extremely careful when using a pressure washer.

### Surface finish

Woods intended for outdoor use are very durable and usually do not require chemical surface treatment. However, it is generally recommended to protect the surface of the terrace, both for tropical and traditional trees, with a suitable surface treatment and perform regular maintenance. This prolongs the life of the wood, delays the weathering process and increases the quality of the wood surface.

### Splitting and chips

If the wood is left untreated, the process of weathering or exposing the wood to the weather reduces the smoothness of the surface and increases the possibility of chips and the formation of dry cracks. If it is necessary to increase the smoothness of the surface, both for new and

old wood, sand the surface of the wooden terrace with an electric grinder. Treating wood with a suitable coating significantly reduces the risk of chip formation and increases the quality of the wood surface. The basic building blocks of wood are cellulose fibers and therefore, the possibility of the occurrence of chips is a natural phenomenon.

### Characteristic properties of wood

If you decide for a terrace made of natural wood, it is necessary to accept the properties of wood as a natural material. Wood, which is exposed to outdoor climatic influences, has to deal with many factors. High temperatures, frost, rain, sunlight and other climatic influences affect the character of the wood and change its appearance. Cracks, fissures, troughs, changes in the width and length of the boards or weathering of the surface may occur in the wood. In the wood, small holes can occasionally occur after wood-destroying insects, which occurred in living trees and are unable to survive the process of treatment, industrial drying and fumigation of wood. These properties are manifested in all woody plants and are a natural property of this natural material, they cannot be considered a defect.

### Pin holes

Part of living trees is an insect, which commonly occurs under the bark, in the white part and occasionally penetrates into the heartwood. This insect is unable to survive the industrial processing of wood, its drying and fumigation. However, there may be residues in the wood after its action in the form of very small "holes" of about 0.5-2 mm, which are known as "Pin holes". The possible occurrence of these small holes after exposure to insects is mentioned in the product data sheet and their occurrence is not considered a defect.

### Color differences

Wood is a natural material completely unique and inimitable in its structure, color and growth of fibers. Different color shades between pieces are allowed without restriction and are not considered a defect. Color variations are most often caused by different age ages. Significant color differences are quite common, especially in tropical woody plants. Due to the effects of UV radiation and climatic influences, color unification and weathering occur over time. Knots and other natural features of wood Knots and eyelets, healthy or partially fused, cracks around the knots, marrow run-in, resin channels, marbling and other natural features are an integral part of the wood. Although tropical trees in particular usually have a low number of knots, their number and the occurrence of the above-mentioned traits are allowed without restriction.

### Oil and grease stains

The best way to remove grease and oil stains is to clean them quickly.

The longer the oil or grease remains on the surface, the more likely it is to soak into the wood fibers and become very difficult to clean. The amount of time depends on the type of stain, exposure to water and sun and other factors. To remove greasy or oil stains that do not have enough soap and water, use a cleaner or other commercial cleaner designed for your type of floor. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and test the product in an inconspicuous place before cleaning the entire floor. Install a protective pad under the grill to help protect your floor from greasy stains.

### Knots and other natural signs of wood

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### Sticker marks

During their storage, wooden terraces and prisms are interspersed across wooden slats to ensure ventilation as well as increased package stability. The surface of the wood may subsequently show colored traces from these interleavings, known as "sticker marks". The appearance of marks from interlaces on the surface of the wood is not a defect and is allowed. After a period of exposure of the wood to sunlight, due to weathering and color changes, these marks will disappear, as well as if these places are re-sanded with an electric sander. To achieve the best appearance, it is recommended to sand the surface after the installation of the wooden terrace, which will remove any dirt, traces of handling and overall improve the quality of the wood surface.

### Mold

Molds are common life forms occurring in our environment. Fungi grow on decaying organic materials fallen leaves, pollen. Small and light mold spores travel easily through the air, and different climates with varying temperatures, humidity and sources of organic nutrients create conditions for the mold to survive. A wide variety of building materials, including concrete, wood products, vinyl boards and many other materials, can become a potential site for mold growth. To minimize mold growth on your patio, clean it as often as necessary, as needed, but at least twice a year. It is important to remove leaves, dirt and other organic materials that provide a source of food for mold development. There are many commercial products for cleaning and removing mold. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the cleaning agents within the specified expiration date. Do not mix detergents together, otherwise harmful chemical reactions may occur. Never use bleach and acids.

### Tannin stains

Tannins - tannins (natural dye and resin) occur naturally in all woody plants and sometimes migrate to the wood surface where the surface of wood fibers is exposed to the sun and water. Tannin stains dissolve over

time by rain and water. Depending on the season, this can take weeks to months. A wood cleaner and degreaser or other commercial cleaners designed for your floor type can be used to speed up the removal of tannin stains. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and test the product in an inconspicuous place before cleaning the entire floor.

### Formation of mosses and green coating on the wood

The growth of mosses and green coatings occurs wherever suitable conditions for their growth are created, especially by the action of long-term moisture, without the possibility of drying and cleaning. The growth of bellows in these cases can be observed not only on organic but also on other materials such as stone or concrete. Removal is possible through regular maintenance and the use of anti-moss agents such as Saicos green coat remover.

### Natural dye "bleeding"

Most tropical woods contain more or less natural dye, which is washed out of the wood in the form of a brown liquid due to rain or increased humidity. The process and time of leaching the dye depends on the degree of direct exposure of the wood to the weather and especially to rain. For wood that is exposed to direct weathering and rain, the leaching process usually takes several weeks, depending on the frequency and intensity of the rains. Make sure that the natural dye that will leach out of the wood during the rain does not stain the areas below and around it. Drain the rainwater with a drain.

### Weathering causes and renovations

Wood exposed to the weather, especially sunlight and rain, shows changes in the color and structure of its surface over time. In places with sufficient air drying and ventilation, this is most often a change to a gray-silver shade, which is reflected in the intensity of sunlight and rain over several months. If the wood is exposed to increased humidity, weathering will result in a change to a dark, often even spotted shade. Areas of wood that are only partially or completely protected by an overhang or roof will cause uneven weathering compared to areas under an open uncovered sky. Weathering is a natural process and involves the breakdown of the top layer of wood and its building blocks lignin and cellulose due to weathering and UV radiation. These phenomena manifest themselves in all tree species without distinction, only in dark tree species they are visible faster than in light tree species. This thin gray layer can be removed mechanically, ie by grinding the surface or chemically using a special gray remover. Another typical manifestation of weathering of wood is the formation of dry cracks, drying or swelling of wood, rough surface structure, peeling of spring growths and other characteristic manifestations of wood exposed to weathering. The use of a chemical dehumidifier can only be used effectively until the weather penetrates more deep, which is usually within 2-3 years depending on the type of wood. After that, the use of chemical dehumidifiers is usually no longer effective and the only option will be to grind the surface or leave the wood with a weathered surface.

### What are the causes of blackening wood

Blackening of the surface is more common on horizontal surfaces exposed to the weather, where it is easier to settle dirt, dust and fall. The blackening of the wood is caused by the gradual penetration of impurities together with the increased moisture of the macropore into the wood, where they settle. The current world trend of natural protective terrace coatings leaving wood with open pores, enabling natural drying, will not prevent the penetration of dust particles or weathering of wood. Wood blackening can be done with a weak solution of oxalic acid, Saicos gray remover or mechanically sanding the surface. The wooden terraces are a wonderful representative outdoor flooring. In order for your terrace to be in good condition and to look beautiful even after many years, it is necessary to pay attention to its surface. Wood exposed to external influences natural ages and dust particles, fallout and other impurities change its appearance. Regularly clean the terrace from dirt, soil, sediment and pollen. This will prevent macroporous dirt from penetrating the wood. Especially on light woody plants, the effect of impurities is more visible. Water and moisture settle under objects that are placed on the terrace, such as parasol stands, flower pots, bowls, doormats, and there is no possibility of quick and natural drying. Long-term moisture and dirt stains can form under these objects. Carry objects standing on the terrace from time to time or ensure that there is natural drying and ventilation of the air under them. This will prevent the formation of dark spots on the wood. Avoid contact of wood with corrosive metals, which create blue-black dark spots on the wood.

### Avoid contact of wood with corrosive metals

Wood in contact with corrosive metals and high humidity form blue-black spots on surface, which are difficult to remove. Therefore, avoid contact of corrosive metals with wood. Use only stainless steel fasteners for installation. Also avoid contact of corrosive metals with wood, grinding or cutting metals near your terrace, as metal dust or its parts could get on the wood surface and cause discoloration. Metal particles or metal dust together with the action of moisture create blue-black stains on the wood. Efforts to remove corrosive stains with chemical gray removers are usually ineffective and it is necessary to grind the wood surface. The use of protective wood coatings does not prevent the formation of corrosive stains. Removing weathered surfaces or blackening wood due to dirt with a chemical desiccant is only effective until the weather penetrates deeper into the wood. The effective time for removing a weathered surface using chemical degreasers is usually up to 2-3 years depending on the type of wood. Then another possible option is to restore the sanding of the wood surface.