



Futurewood composite decking is virtually maintenance free, needing only periodic cleaning to keep it looking great



Care and maintenance recommendations may change without notice. For further information email info@futurewood.nz



CARE & MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

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Initial Weathering & Removal of any Residual Tannins

Your Futurewood composite decking boards are made from a combination of recycled plastic, hardwood flour and rice husks.

When new, there may be some residual tannin in the wood flour component of your decking boards. This tannin will leach out of the board the first few times that the deck board is wet and will appear as a water stain after the board has dried. This water (tannin) stain can be removed by washing with water if required otherwise it will disappear after the board has been wet/dried several times.

You will also notice a softening of the surface colour as the board is exposed to the weather over the first 4-12 weeks. This natural weathering effect varies across the colour range.

General Cleaning

Like any floor in your home, Futurewood composite decking looks best when it is kept clean.

Cleaning the deck with a stiff bristled broom should be undertaken on a regular basis. The frequency of cleaning should be based on the amount of organic debris that ends up on your deck via overhanging or nearby vegetation as well as general dirt and grime that builds up from regular foot traffic.

You can use a pressure washer to clean your deck but do not run this at greater than 8Mpa (1200 PSI) or position the nozzle within 300mm from the deck surface otherwise this may mark the surface of the deck.

Mould and Mildew

Futurewood has a fungicide added to the formulation to help reduce the incidence of mould or mildew growing in the boards.

However, as mould spores are transmitted through the air they can easily grow on any surface under the right climatic conditions. We recommend that you regularly sweep your deck and periodically wash any dirt and debris from the surface making sure that twigs and leaves do not build up between the boards. Regular cleaning will help to reduce the likelihood of mould or mildew growing on the deck surface.

If mould or mildew does develop on the deck, we recommend that the deck is cleaned with the appropriate solution. If mildew starts to grow on your deck (typically characterised

by a green tinge) we recommend that you sweep the deck with a stiff bristled broom and then wash down the surface of your deck thoroughly using a solution of warm soapy water. If mould starts to grow on your deck (typically characterised by black/grey spots) we recommend that you apply a solution of "Wet & Forget" to the surface of your deck making sure that you follow the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations for use.

Scratching

The machined finish and embossed pattern on the surface of Futurewood is designed to hide most minor scratches.

Be careful not to drag furniture or heavy items across your deck as this action may lead to significant scratches on the deck surface. We recommend that a protective mat or furniture pads are used to protect against contact from sources such as furniture legs, BBQ's or planter stands. Larger scratches can be removed by lightly sanding the face of the board. Please note that over sanding of your deck boards may remove the embossed grain pattern.

Most scratches can be removed by light sanding. However, care should be taken to ensure that the indented grain is not removed in the process. Alternatively, as the boards have the same finish on both surfaces, damaged boards can be turned over by unscrewing the deck clip screws, sliding the deck clips out from between the boards and then turning over the board/boards with the damaged sides and sliding the deck clips back in to position and re fastening them.

Staining

Futurewood composite decking has an open fibrous surface that will stain if oil, grease, wine, red clay, leaf matter (tannin) or rust is allowed to remain on the surface and penetrate the fibres.

The best method of removing stains relies on cleaning the area immediately after the stain occurs (before it soaks in to the cellulose fibre). A strong solution of detergent and hot water, applied immediately after the staining has occurred will remove most stains. "Handy Andy" by Clorox Australia has been found to work well on general food and drink stains when applied undiluted and scrubbed in to the stain and then left wet for 10 minutes before washing off the solution with water.

If immediate cleaning is not possible or the stain has high fat/oil content, wet the surface of the deck thoroughly and sprinkle standard OMO front or top loading washing powder by Unilever (OMO Powder is available in 500g,

1kg, 1.5kg and 5kg sizes and top and front loader (and high efficiency) variants) directly over the stained area until it is completely covered. Do not scrub the powder in to the deck at this stage; leave the powder on the wet deck overnight.

After 24 hours, scrub the area with hot water and wash off. For heavy staining several applications may be required. High pressure washing may also help to remove the stain. Caution is required when using high pressure washers as explained in the general cleaning section above. Always allow proper ventilation and respiratory protection when using chemical cleaners. Make sure that you follow the manufactures recommendations when using any cleaning products.

If all else fails, you can lightly sand the face of the deck board to remove the stain. Please note that over sanding may remove the indented grain pattern from the board.

Constant metal contact may produce rust stains on your deck. You should use protective caps to protect against metal contact from sources such as furniture legs, BBQ's or planter stands.

In order to avoid heavy grease staining if a large amount of cooking oil/fat is likely to fall from your BBQ on to the deck a protective mat placed over the decking and covering the area immediately around your BBQ is highly recommended.

Painting

Futurewood does not require any painting over the life of the product.

If you want to change the colour of the decking, we recommend that you take a sample or off cut of Futurewood to your paint supplier and test the suggested surface coating before purchasing and before applying to the whole deck surface to ensure that a suitable bond between the deck and the finishing coat is achieved.

The paint will not penetrate the surface of the material like traditional wood. Always wait until the surface weathers before painting to provide more cellulose exposure for the paint to adhere to.

Miscellaneous

Make sure that heavy items are well supported and positioned so that they are sitting above the joists/substructure.

Constant loading on any individual deck board without immediate joist support may cause that board to sag. Futurewood is not suitable for use as a structural support.