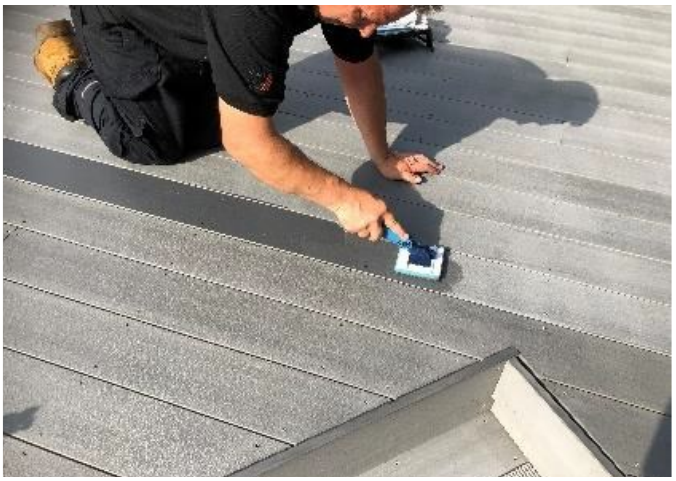
Stamco Hoppings
QUALITY TIMBER PRODUCTS

Decking Care and Maintenance

Tanalised™ TIMBER



Freephone Helpline 0800 8496339

Care and Maintenance

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Pre-Treated Timber Decking Advice

What to Expect

Small surface splits can occur in all components during the warmer months.
This happens as the timber dries and shrinks and is most prominent on larger section timbers such as Q-Deck 140 x 140mm grand multi-posts.
In the winter months the splits will tend to close as the timber swells.
During the first year the colour of the deck will fade slightly and this will continue due to the 'greying' affects of U.V. light.
For best results apply Seasonite® by Owatrol® immediately before or after fitting Q-Deck treated softwood decking.

Poorly designed, constructed, situated and maintained decks will increase the risk of colonisation by surface moulds (rather like internal plaster mould).
Surface moulds do not affect the structural performance of a deck but if left to develop can cause a speckled black staining within the surface of the timber.
If caught early this can normally be removed with a bathroom/kitchen scourer and proprietary deck cleaner or diluted household bleach.

Clean

Even treated softwood will not look its best after a long winter and a wet spring, so a little time spent cleaning will pay dividends for the summer months.

We would recommend that you sweep your deck regularly and hose it down when dirt accumulates.
Allowing dirt and other organic matter such as leaf litter or soil to accumulate on your deck, increases the risk of both mould (as described above) and fungal infection.
The organic matter may not only carry the source of fungal infection but may hinder drainage and provide the damp conditions that they need to survive.
There are many effective cleaning agents available.
Many are useful to remove algae growth which can occur and without cleaning, this type of contamination can create a slip hazard.
Cleaning your deck with a suitable deck cleaning agent and pressure washing at the beginning and end of the season is a recommended course of action.
A highly effective cleaning agent is Net-Trol® by Owatrol®, a wood cleaner and colour restorer.

Pre-Treated Timber Decking Advice

Clean

For the removal of previously applied oil finishes that have failed use Aquanett® by Owatrol®, then neutralise with Net-Trol®.
For the rejuvenation of very dirty, stained hardwood decks use Prepdeck® stripper/cleaner by Owatrol® instead of Aquanett®.
Have you considered the new Q-Grip range of slip resistant decking products for the potentially slip sensitive areas of your deck?

Re-seal and Protection

A treated softwood deck should be kept clean and for good looks, resealed with a brush on water repellent every year - Seasonite® Wood Protection finish for exterior woods by Owatrol® is a good option.
For best results re-apply a water repellent when the deck is dry after cleaning.

If you want to add colour to Q-Deck treated softwood products then pigmented Textrol® by Owatrol® is a protective coating to use after 12 months use.
Water based stains are to be considered cautiously as the in-built water repellent within Q-Deck treated softwood products can affect the adhesion of the stain to the timber.
This affect diminishes over time due to wear and tear.
Please bear in mind that once you apply a stain/protective coating to decking it will need regular re-staining and heavy foot traffic areas will have to be restained more frequently than other areas.
If applying to Q-Grip slip resistant deckboards, care must be taken not to apply stain to the aggregate strip areas as it may not adhere or dry properly on these areas and affect its slip resistance properties.
Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when working with deck maintenance products.

Take Care

It is advisable to regularly check for any proud shards or splinters of timber and remove them should they occur for safety reasons.

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Composite Decking Advice

Handling & Storage

Recommendations for SmartBoard Stockists & Fitters:

• Pick orders from the specially designed pallet provided (and return said pallet when empty please!).

• For presentation reasons it is best to store SmartBoard inside/undercover, ideally in a secure warehouse for obvious reasons.

• If boards are to be stored in A-Frame racking then at least 1 mid-term support is required otherwise boards may deform slightly, not an issue but might be perceived as so when received on site.

• Re make orders using sheet polystyrene, as used to separate SmartBoard in its pack form as shown. This will help minimise marking and help restrict boards from sliding in transit.

• When ratchet banding up a set of boards, always protect the corners of the 4 exposed edges to avoid crushing.

• Placing, rather than sliding boards on top of one another is preferable when moving boards about on site. Sliding boards over one another may cause marking.
If sliding boards is un-avoidable then orientate them ribbed face to ribbed face to reduce the chance of marking.

• On site, ensure boards are stored flat, off the ground and with sufficient support (every 600mm) to prevent sagging and deformation.

Composite Decking Advice

Colour - What to Expect

Please remember, SmartBoard contains wood fibres, susceptible to differences in colour and appearance as the series of images below illustrate. 22 battleship grey boards all within colour tolerance, laid out at random, pictured from 5 different aspects. Note the variation in colour tone from aspect to aspect.

Figure 1 - Aspect 2

Figure 2 - Aspect 1

Figure 5 - Aspect 3

Figure 4 - Aspect 4

Figure 3 - Aspect 5

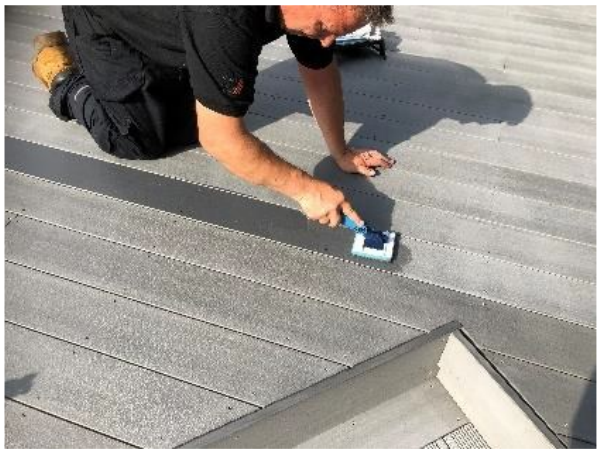
Composite Decking Advice

Colour - What to Expect continued

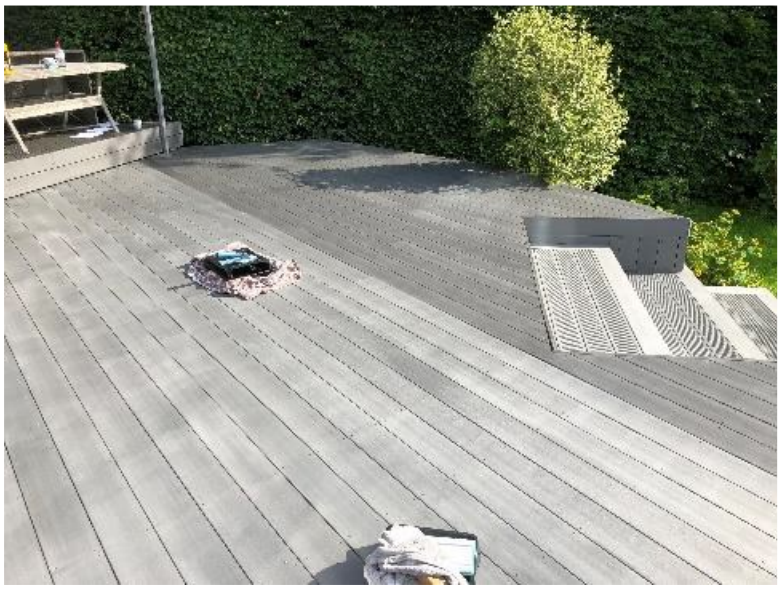
As soon as the product is exposed to sun and rain, these fibres will undergo a natural ageing process and will be subject to colour changes. After a few months, the final patina will be obtained. All decking, including wood plastic composite varieties are expected to experience some level of weathering over time. During the first 12 weeks of exposure to the elements, SmartBoard will typically weather to a slightly lighter shade from the original colour. This process is a result of a combination of water absorption in the wood fibres and UV stabilisation at the surface of the boards. Close inspection shows that this colour change or fading is due to the natural bleaching of the wood fibres. After this initial acclimatising, any colour change will be less visible.

The striped look of the ribbed face will become less and less evident upon exposure to natural light until it settles to the colour of the brushed areas.

Colour stain can be used to seal and rejuvenate SmartBoard using CompoCare by Owatrol.



Applying Compocare Grey



CompoCare Grey zone

Composite Decking Advice

Cleaning - What to Expect

After exposure to the first few good bout of rain, tide marks may appear on the surface of boards. These tide marks tend to be more prolific the more level the deck and or insufficient drainage gaps between adjacent boards, as water pools meaning the surface takes longer to dry.
Tidemark staining is to be expected and normal. The 'What to expect' sections of our point of sale brochure and website refer to this feature.
Tidemark type staining is normal for un-capped (without a plastic wrap/cap/outer skin) wood plastic composite products and most prominent on wood plastic composite material with a brushed matt surface; a key aesthetic feature of SmartBoard decking.
The staining is associated with residual manufacturing dust. The staining becomes less and less evident with time i.e. after exposure to ultra-violet light and the washing effect of rain. One can assist speeding up this natural process by occasionally:

1. Drenching the deck with tap water whilst giving it a very thorough scrub with a fine stiff bristled nylon brush/broom (or purdy brush for a deep clean, see page over).
2. Pressure wash it. For best results, in one continuous movement along each board, position the lance at the right distance such that the jet of water overlaps the width of one board by 5mm each side.
3. Remove excess water from the boards using a squeegee blade, similar to those window cleaners use (and used to minimise calcium staining on glass shower enclosures).

Squeegee blade

Squeegee blade in action

SmartBoard should be kept free of debris by regular sweeping and cleaned when necessary using a stiff bristled brush, warm soapy water, rinse with clean fresh water and remove excess water from the boards using a squeegee blade.

Composite Decking Advice

Cleaning

The use of a pressure washer is also fine, whilst taking care not to damage or change the look of the surface of SmartBoard by placing the lance to close to it. Remove excess water from the boards using a squeegee blade. It is wise to clean a small inconspicuous test area before pressure washing the entire deck.

Chocolate Brown and Slate are better at hiding day to day grime compared to the much lighter Battleship Grey, whereas staining created by fat/oils from food stuffs will be more evident on the darker Chocolate Brown. Regarding removing fatty stains, the use of washing up liquid and hot water is the best method to use and as soon as possible after the contamination has happened. Fatty stains that are left to penetrate deeper into the surface of SmartBoard may require abrading to reduce their impact on appearance using a wire brush as detailed below.

The most effective way to undertake a deep clean and or reduce the appearance of stubborn stains is to scrub SmartBoard with a specialist wire brush by Purdy. It is wise to clean a small inconspicuous test area before brushing the entire deck as this is a process of light abrasion and will affect the look of the deck surface.
Note: using the Purdy brush in conjunction with lots of fresh water will lighten the look of your deck compared to it appearing darker if brushed with the same brush when dry/without water.

Stained - BEFORE and dry

Purdy brush –
NO WATER Left edge

Purdy brush –
WITH WATER right edge

AFTER and dry

Purdy brush - DRY

Purdy brushed area - DRY

Composite Decking Advice

INSTRUCTIONS: Shake well before use. Holding can upright, spray directly onto the product at a distance of about 10 - 25 cm so that stain is completely covered.
Apply liberally. Allow to work for at least 10 minutes until the product is completely dry then brush or wash off with luke warm soapy water. If necessary repeat the operation on tougher stains.
Store only in the original container in a dry, cool and well ventilated place away from direct sunlight.
IMPORTANT: Always test on hidden or inconspicuous area of deck first to ensure colour is not adversely effected. Over exposure may result in a slight discolouration or lightening of timber.
Complete stain removal cannot be guaranteed. The sooner stain remover is used on fat stained decking the greater the chance of removal. Fat stains may become more difficult to remove the Longer they are left untreated and deeper they penetrate any absorbent material.
DANGER: Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness or cracking. Extremely flammable aerosol. Pressurised container: May burst if heated. Causes serious eye irritation. May cause drowsiness or dizziness. Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects. Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking.
Do not spray on an open flame or other ignition source. Do not pierce or burn, even after use.
Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. Protect from sunlight.
Do not expose to temperatures exceeding 50°C/122°F.
CONTAINS: Acetone; Propan-2-ol; Cyclohexane.

200ml 270 3

Treats grease and stubborn oily stains on composite and timber decking.

Just spray on and brush off!

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