

## Composite Boards Maintenance Guide and Schedule

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Installation of Outdure Composite Boards must be in adherence with Local Building Code, National Standards, Statutory Regulations, Local Authority requirements and Outdure's Installation Guide, and must allow for sufficient drainage and/or airflow.

Outdure's composite decking boards are maintained on a low maintenance basis, they only require a fraction of the maintenance timber decks demand to keep them looking great. We recommend you clean and manually wash your Outdure composite decking boards in ISO Category regions 2 and 3 every three (3) months, and in all other regions every six (6) months, even if it appears clean, to ensure that you receive the full benefit of your Warranty.

ISO Category 3 regions are characterised by:

- Little or no salt deposits.
- The occasional smell of salt in the air.
- Typically starts 500 – 1000 metres from breaking surf such as is found on exposed coasts, or in the immediate vicinity of calm salt water such as estuaries.

ISO Category 2 regions are characterised by:

- No obvious marine or industrial influences.
- Typically more than 1000 metres from the exposed coasts or more than 500 metres from industrial emissions.

This environment may be extended inland by prevailing winds and local conditions.

**DIRT AND DEBRIS:** Surface debris should be removed by hand and where required sprayed off with a hose. Use warm soapy water and a soft non-metal scrub brush or broom to remove dirt and debris within the embossing pattern, scrubbing in the direction of the grain.

**PRESSURE CLEANING:** Using a pressure washer with a wide fan tip is applicable, but only at pressures under 1,500 psi and at a distance of a minimum of 25cm above the deck. Exercise extreme caution when using a pressure washer as your deck may be damaged. Failure to remove debris from gaps may result in the formation of staining, mould, and mildew.

**TANNINS:** Tannin spots can sometimes be seen on your deck, they can form when organic material gets stuck within the gaps of the deck and water starts to pool under it. Most tannin spots will appear within the first 16 weeks and normally fade or disappear naturally during weathering. However, it is best to remove the debris within gaps with a garden hose, spatula, or soft broom. Keeping the gaps clean will reduce the chances of tannins from forming leaving your deck cleaner.

**OIL/GREASE/FOOD:** All oil, grease and food spills must be removed promptly to maintain your 10-Year Warranty. To clean, use warm soapy water and a soft non-metal scrub brush. Grease and oil may require an all-purpose, non-aggressive household cleaner / degreaser if warm soapy water and a soft non-metal scrub brush do not work. Rinse thoroughly.

**VENTILATION:** Decking boards and frames require as much ventilation as possible. EcoDecking is very resistant to moisture, but prolonged exposure to moisture can affect the substructure and decking boards, and promote mould growth on your deck. Boards require a minimum 12mm gap from another structure such as the house, retaining wall, pool coping, etc., to avoid capillary action and for water to drain away. Decking boards must never be in contact with the ground or another surface except for the substructure. Use ventilation grates to allow airflow for decks less than 400mm from the ground or membrane.

**STATIC:** Use-based friction or static electricity can build up on the composite boards due to high temperatures and / or low humidity. Outdure Composite Boards are made of a material that cannot lose the electricity naturally to the environment, therefore, we recommend to spray the deck with a hose to easily get rid of friction or static electricity.

**IRREGULAR HEAT SOURCES / FIRE:** Composite decking has the tendency to retain heat whenever presented directly or indirectly to it. Irregular heat sources such as, but not limited to, braziers, fire pits, fireplaces, barbecue grills and fire may damage the surface of composite decking. Proper caution should be taken with irregular heat sources and fire to ensure no damage occurs to the deck.

**ICE AND SNOW:** Use calcium chloride or rock salt to melt the snow and ice. Buildup of calcium chloride and rock salt may occur leaving a white residue, which can be easily removed with warm soapy water and a soft non-metal scrub brush. Never use a metal shovel to remove ice or snow from a your deck.

**MOULD AND MILDEW:** Mould and mildew occurs periodically in everyday environments due to the amount of heat and moisture present in your region. Outdure composite decking is not a food source for mould; surface mould and mildew can appear on the deck if decaying organic material such as, but are not limited to, wood, leaf decay, and pollen are present along with elevated temperatures, air, and water. There is no way to completely eliminate mould and mildew, therefore, we can only minimize the occurrence by removing these decaying organic materials as quickly as possible. If mould and mildew are present use warm soapy water and a soft non-metal scrub brush to clean. Note: If the gaps between deck boards are too small, clogged or non-existent, then moisture cannot dry.

**MASONRY CONSTRUCTION:** During masonry construction the deck must be covered at all times, preferably with a sheet of tarp or construction grade plastic film. Mineral deposits, left over from construction, can mix with water and evaporate leaving deposits behind which creates a white/haze on the decks surface. To prevent this problem, when possible, ensure that masonry/cement construction is set properly before ever installing the decking material. If mineral deposits are left on the decks' surface, regular maintenance is required in order to maintain the original look of the deck. Builders chalk lines can be difficult to remove, scrubbing the area with hot soapy water may dislodge some of the chalk.

**SCUFFS, ABRASIONS AND RUST STAINS:** Outdure composite decking is designed for durability, however if furniture or other items are dragged over any surface it will potentially leave marking. Depending on the surface finish your decking product has, rust stains can be removed by light brushing. The surface finish you achieve is entirely up to the technique and pressure you use. Please test your brushing technique on a scrap piece of decking before trying to resurface any other area of your deck.

**MINERAL DEPOSITS:** Mineral deposits appear on the deck surface when regular cleaning of your deck does not occur. These deposits appear because of rain mixing with runoff from roofs, soil/dirt, pathways, etc. When evaporated on the deck it creates a haze that can be washed away if seen within a certain time period. If over time this haze is not cleaned it can build up and create layers that are more difficult to clean.

## Maintenance Tips

It is not recommended to use any bleach products to clean Outdure Composite Boards as it can cause slight fading. For persistent stains such as berries and red wine test the cleaning technique before treating an area in the middle of your deck.

We recommend using household/laundry detergent, or vinegar as a cleaner to wash off the mineral deposits.

### Option 1: Vinegar

1. Make a 50/50 mixture of vinegar/water. Start by pouring water into a bucket then add the same amount of vinegar to that bucket.
2. Mix thoroughly and apply the mixture onto the boards that are affected by the mineral deposits.
3. After applying the mixture leave it on for at least 5 minutes to let the mixture get deep into the mineral deposit.
4. After allowing the mixture to sit for at least 5 minutes use a rigid brush or broom and scrub in the direction of the grain. The strength of the scrubbing will depend on how thick the mineral deposit is usually medium strength scrubbing is sufficient.
5. After scrubbing for about 1-2 minutes take water and rinse the area and dry the area with a cotton cloth, mop or towel to see the result.

### Option 2: Household Laundry Detergent

1. Sprinkle the detergent sparingly onto the boards.
2. Then pour water over the detergent and rub it into the boards
3. Allow it to sit for at least 5 minutes.
4. After allowing the detergent/water sit for 5 minutes begin scrubbing with a rigid brush or broom in the direction of the wood grain.
5. After scrubbing for 1-2 minutes rinse the area with water and dry with a cotton cloth, mop or towel.

Note: Only scrub in the direction of the wood grain never scrub against the wood grain. It might take multiple times scrubbing the board in order to get the mineral deposit off the surface. Also, quicker results may be seen if you continuously scrub while adding the mixture on the affected area.

## Timber piles and/or bearers and/or joists

**PILES:** Radiata pine; H5 CCA-treated; exterior; ground contact; unfinished piles.

**BEARERS:** Radiata pine; H3.2 CCA-treated; exposed to weather; no ground contact.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON INSPECTION:** Insufficient ventilation, moss/lichen growth, mildew, substructure movement vertically and horizontally. Joists and bearers must be level. Joists must be free to dry, i.e.: not touching earth. Check for corroded/loose fittings. Check for corroded fittings, insufficient subfloor bracing, pile movement/setting.

**MAINTENANCE:** Increase ventilation to ensure structure can dry out. Address dampness with ground vapour barrier or more ventilation, tighten loose fixings, replace damaged boards, components and corroded fixings as required. Add bracing where required. Re-level by packing bearers as required.

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## Maintenance Schedule

Outdure's Products are maintained on a low maintenance basis. You are required to ensure regular cleaning and care of your Outdure Products (including removing any debris or leaves) as per the Maintenance and Care Guide. To ensure that you receive the full benefit of your Warranty, you must complete the Maintenance Schedule included below (and also available at <http://www.outdure.com/care/>) on a regular basis.

Date	Action taken	Issues or defects (if applicable)
DD / MM / YYYY		
DD / MM / YYYY		
DD / MM / YYYY		
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