

DECK CARE & MAINTENANCE

Your deck has been built using timber supplied by The Manchester Deck Co Ltd.

The timber is called Southern Yellow Pine.

Southern Yellow Pine is a sustainable high grade, durable timber, grown on the eastern seaboard of the USA.

It will naturally weather to a mellow silver colour with time, however some basic maintenance will keep your deck in top condition.

As with all natural wood products, the timber boards will expand and contract depending on climatic variables - heating and cooling, wetting and drying. It is normal for small cracks to appear along the grain of the wood, this is called checking. It in no way compromises the strength or safety of the deck and is nothing to be concerned about.

We use and recommend a range of specialist deck maintenance products for both initial and ongoing deck treatment and care. These products are available from Owatrol UK or direct from The Manchester Deck Co Ltd.

Silvering of your deck is the result of timber oxidisation, which occurs naturally over time with exposure to U.V. rays. Silvering will not affect your deck, in many cases it is the desired effect. If however you wish to bring the timber back to its original bright milled finish, a preparatory deck cleaner such as 'Netrol' can be used in conjunction with a pressure washer.

Algae may develop on the deck surface, particularly in shaded areas during periods of prolonged dampness,

An ideal algicide is Hydrogen peroxide, available as a neat chemical and often found in branded algicide cleaning products.

Use of the chemical with a deck scrubbing brush and pressure washer to remove residue is an effective way of killing algae.

To thoroughly clean a deck, remove algae, and bring back its bright milled finish we recommend 'Prepdeck' deck cleaner from Owatrol.

This is a professional cleaning product and careful attention to product guidelines and use of the correct equipment is essential.

A good quality deck oil applied after cleaning and preparation will help to not only keep your deck looking good but also protect your deck from algae growth, checking, cupping and other forms of weathering.

At The Manchester Deck Company we recommend 'Colourtrend Wood Care Original Timber Oil'.

It's available in a range of colour tints and will break down naturally over time. Allowing easy removal of any residual product on deck servicing and simple cloth reapplication.

Many brands of deck oils behave rather like a varnish and will crack and flake over time, often proving difficult to remove. Avoid these products if possible.

Good quality deck oil , will contain U.V. filters which slow silvering. Sealing should be done in dry weather conditions and following the manufacturer's instructions.

Your deck may have bespoke design components such as tensioned stainless wire or stainless / aluminium inlay. If you have any queries with regards to the care and maintenance of these components please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Manchester Deck Co Ltd are happy to recommend a deck maintenance professional, should you so require.

'Owatrol' and specialist timber oil cleaning and treatment products are also available on a supply only basis. Information and prices are available on request.

Please call : **0161 448 8437** or e mail : chrislowe@manchesterdeck.co.uk
Regarding product or advice.

10 Top tips:

- 1. Don't trap dirt.** If you have flower planters on your deck, place them on top of cement blocks to prevent the planters from trapping dirt or moisture on the deck's surface.
- 2. Catch that grease.** If you have your grill on your deck, always use a grease catcher – grease stains are typically some of the most difficult to remove.
- 3. Sweep it up.** Sweep your deck on a regular basis to prevent accumulations of dirt or leaves that can stain the deck surface.
- 4. Shovel it off.** When there's snowfall, shovel the snow off your deck as soon as possible.
- 5. Clean and seal regularly.** Have your deck professionally cleaned and sealed at least every 2 to 3 years to protect it against the rain and sun. If you opt to do it yourself, you'll probably need to clean and seal the deck at least once a year, so in the long run, professional work pays for itself.
- 6. Take special steps for a new deck.** If your deck is new, have it professionally cleaned to kill any mildew spores in the wood and to remove any surface impurities that may prevent deck sealing products from penetrating. Then have it sealed with a waterproof sealer. But be sure to wait at least 60 days after a wooden deck is built to have it cleaned and stained; wood has to "age" first.
- 7. No matter the age, always make sure your deck is sealed.** Seal your deck to protect it against moisture from rain and dew, which will cause the wood to swell. Sealing the deck will also protect it against the sun, which can shrink and dry the wood. The alternating cycles of expanding and shrinking will cause the wood to warp, cup, crack and gray.
- 8. Even pressure treated wood needs to be sealed.** Pressure treated wood alone does nothing to protect your deck against weather. In fact, pressure treated wood without sealant applied is even more porous and vulnerable to the weather.
- 9. Don't apply paint or solid stains.** Avoid painting or staining your deck with a solid stain because these finishes eventually peel and require a significant amount of maintenance. Oil-based stains are usually the best because they protect your deck and fade gradually and naturally.
- 10. Make repairs as soon as possible.** Replace any rotted boards as needed to avoid having to replace the whole deck. Regular maintenance should also include tightening loose boards or railings.