



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

FOR FIBERON DECKING AND RAILING

GET READY TO ENJOY YEARS OF EASY OUTDOOR LIVING

Fiberon® composite decking and railing is designed to be long lasting and low maintenance. Of course, life happens. Use this guide to help you manage the occasional mess or mishap. And thanks for choosing Fiberon!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

◦ Dirt and grime	1
◦ Oil and grease	4
◦ Mold and mildew	4
◦ Salt and calcium chloride	5
◦ Construction materials	6
◦ Railing	7

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

◦ Low-E glass and reflected heat	8
◦ Fire features/fire pits	8
◦ Rubber mats and flower pots	9
◦ Static electricity	9
◦ Under-deck waterproofing systems	9
◦ Ladder usage tips	9
◦ Paramount PVC Decking	10

GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

DIRT AND GRIME

In most cases, an occasional soap and water cleaning is all that is needed to keep your Fiberon decking looking like new.

For best results, use the following:

- A pump sprayer
- Mild household cleaner or composite decking cleaner
- Non-metal scrub brush (with extension handle, if possible).



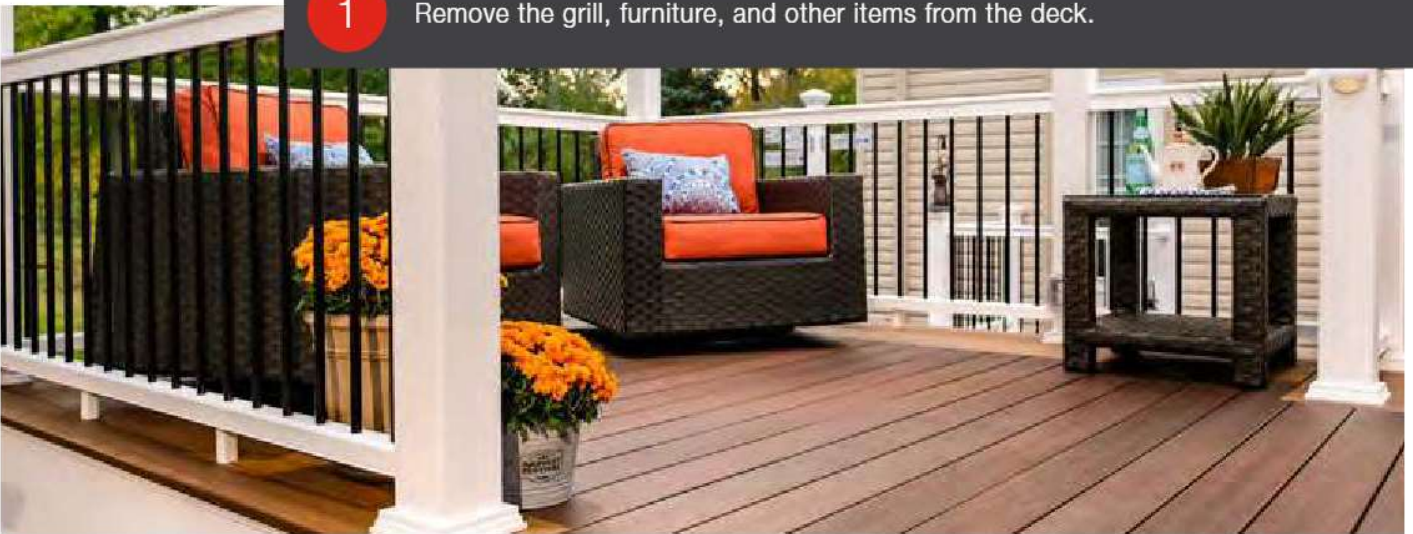
A NOTE ABOUT PRESSURE WASHERS:

Used incorrectly, pressure washers can damage your decking. Exercise extreme caution with pressure washers. Pressure should be less than 2500 psi at 12 inches above deck surface. ALWAYS use a wide fan-tip nozzle or oscillating nozzle and test in an inconspicuous area first. Wash in direction of grain pattern to avoid possible damage to the boards.



1

Remove the grill, furniture, and other items from the deck.



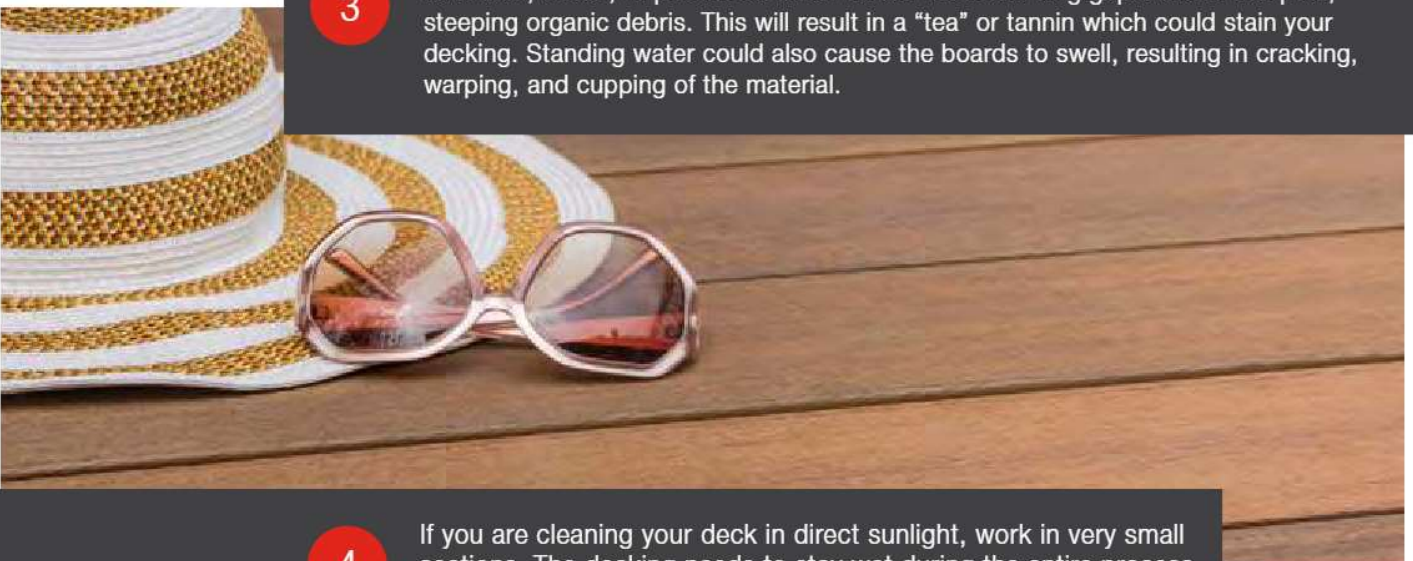
2

Sweep the surface or use a blower to remove loose debris such as leaves.



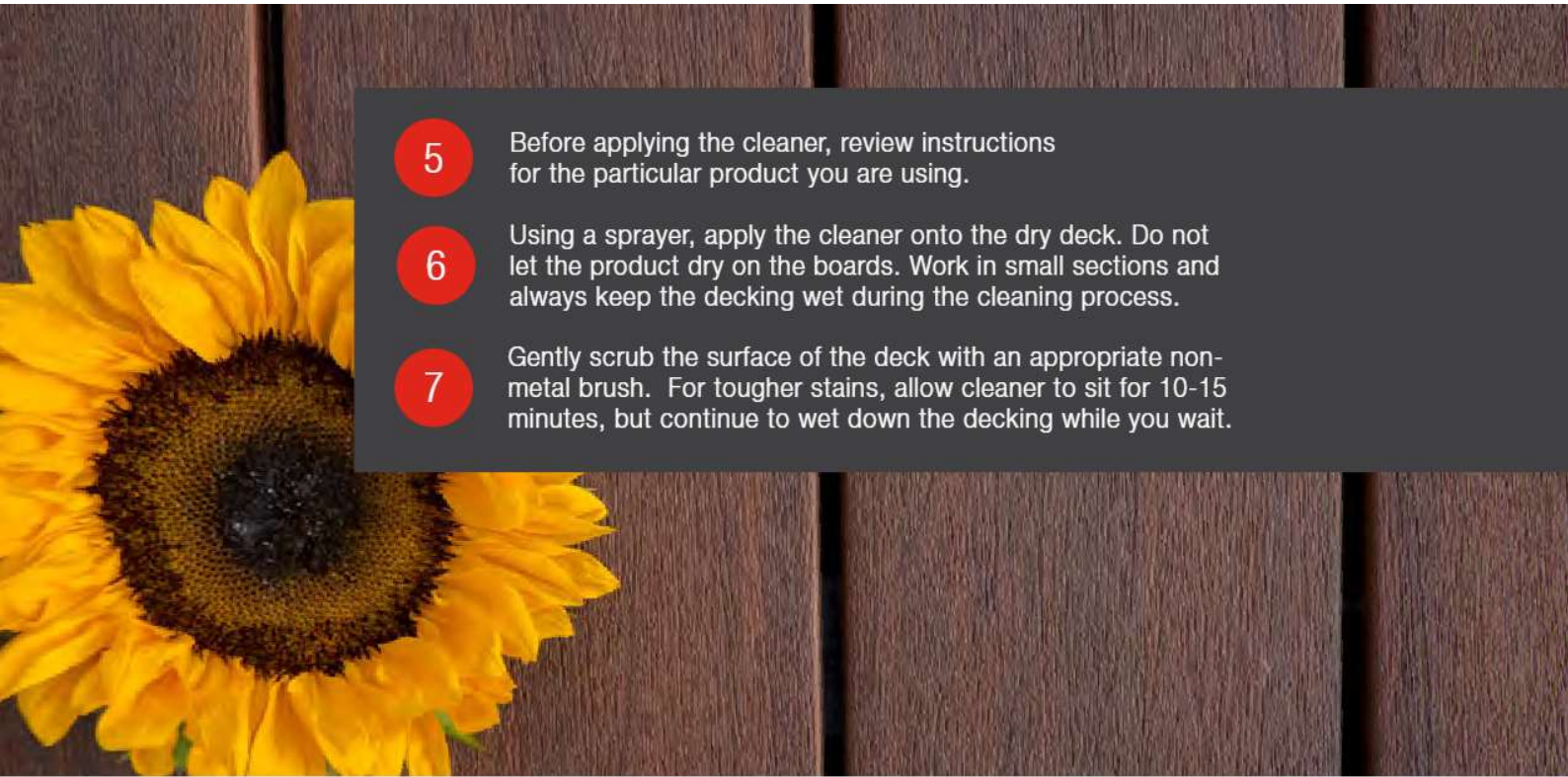
3

Clean debris from the spaces between boards to ensure proper drainage. If the gap between decking boards is less than 3/16 inch (4.8 mm), organic debris such as leaves, seeds, or pollen can settle on the deck and clog gaps. Water can pool, steeping organic debris. This will result in a "tea" or tannin which could stain your decking. Standing water could also cause the boards to swell, resulting in cracking, warping, and cupping of the material.



4

If you are cleaning your deck in direct sunlight, work in very small sections. The decking needs to stay wet during the entire process to allow for all dirt and soap residue to be rinsed off completely.



5

Before applying the cleaner, review instructions for the particular product you are using.

6

Using a sprayer, apply the cleaner onto the dry deck. Do not let the product dry on the boards. Work in small sections and always keep the decking wet during the cleaning process.

7

Gently scrub the surface of the deck with an appropriate non-metal brush. For tougher stains, allow cleaner to sit for 10-15 minutes, but continue to wet down the decking while you wait.

8

Rinse the section of the deck completely with regular water. Repeat these steps until the entire surface has been cleaned.



9

Let the deck dry completely before putting any furniture or other accessories back.



OIL AND GREASE

- Speedy clean-up is best. For grease and oil stains that soap and water cannot remove, an all-purpose cleaner such as Fantastik should do the trick. Or, use a commercial deck cleaner designed specifically for your type of decking.
- De-Solv-It® Citrus Solution is effective in removing tar, asphalt, oil, grease, and chewing gum. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations and test in an inconspicuous area prior to cleaning the entire deck.



To learn more, read Fiberon
Technical Bulletin: Cleaning Mold on
Capped and Uncapped Decking.

MOLD AND MILDEW

- Tiny and lightweight, mold spores travel easily through the air. To thrive, mold and mildew need air, water, elevated temperatures, and a food source such as decaying wood, leaves, or pollen.
- Mold can grow almost anywhere. To minimize mold on your deck, clean it as often as needed, at least once per year. Climate conditions vary in different regions of the country and may necessitate more frequent cleaning.
- If mold is present on your deck, there are many commercial products available for removing it. Collier Manufacturing 30-Seconds® Outdoor Cleaner is a heavy duty, mildly alkaline, chlorinated mold and mildew cleaner that is biodegradable once rinsed into the soil. During testing, it performed well in removing mold and mildew.
- For best results, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and use cleaners within their stated shelf life. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur.



TIPS FOR SNOW REMOVAL:

- A leaf blower or broom should easily clear a light dusting of snow.
- Never use metal shovels or sharp-edge tools when removing snow or ice from your composite or PVC deck. Even the most resilient boards could be scratched or gouged.
- Plastic shovels or plastic/nylon bristled deck brooms will remove snow from the deck as well as limit the risk of scratches to the deck surface.
- When clearing snow, always shovel in a path parallel to the deck boards, not perpendicular. Never use an ice chipper — even a plastic one — on your deck, at the risk of permanent damage.

SALT AND CALCIUM CHLORIDE

Choosing the best ice melt product

- If the winter weather has left your deck slippery or ice-covered, choose calcium chloride-based "ice melt" or rock salt to remove the snow and ice.
- Don't use sand as it is naturally abrasive and could easily damage the surface of the deck boards.
- Look for the phrases "safe for concrete," "safe for flagstone," and "will not kill grass" in the ice melt product description.
- Avoid ice melt with added colorant. These dyes can stain composite or PVC decking.
- If you have children or pets that frequent your deck in the winter, ensure your chosen product will be safe for them as well.

Cleaning up ice melt debris quickly and easily

- When the threat of inclement weather has passed, use a broom to sweep up any existing granular pieces and discard the ice melt. This will prevent people and pets from tracking in ice melt that could damage indoor flooring.
- Remove any remaining buildup of ice melt with water and a light scrubbing. Use a non-metal deck brush.
- When warmer temperatures return, it's best to rinse your deck with a garden hose to remove any stubborn leftover debris.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Construction Chalk

Colored chalk used in construction for marking straight lines prior to cutting is permanent on most surfaces. Contact the specific chalk manufacturer for a cleaning solution that may prove effective. The best advice is to avoid colored chalk. Instead, use a workable alternative such as white chalk or baby powder.



CHOOSE YOUR BRUSH CAREFULLY:

For stubborn or hard-to-remove stains, we recommend a soft, brass bristle brush for all Fiberon Decking EXCEPT Symmetry and Good Life Decking. Use a soft nylon deck brush to avoid potential scratching.

Masonry Construction

- Always protect decking during masonry construction. White or hazy residue from mineral deposits (efflorescence) can leach out of stone and masonry material after water evaporates, leaving the deposits behind. Minerals from soils in certain arid and mountainous environments can also cause a hazing affect when deposited on the deck surface.
- To prevent this, either cover the decking surface completely and securely during the construction phase or wait to install the decking until after masonry construction has been completed. To minimize this effect during masonry construction, keep materials dry and allow masonry and cement to cure properly.
- For mineral deposits left on the decking surface, periodic cleaning is required. Use mild soap or a composite decking cleaner, and be sure to follow the label instructions carefully. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur. NOTE: For Symmetry® and Good Life Decking, use a soft nylon deck brush, not a brass bristle brush.

RAILING

For general cleaning, use mild soap and water or Fantastik® spray cleaner. For white railing only, you may also use Mr. Clean® Magic Erasers. For deeper cleaning, or to remove any oxidation, we recommend DeckMAX® PVC Revitalizing Wipes.



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

FIRE AND POTENTIAL HEAT SOURCES

Composite decking will retain heat when exposed to direct or reflective sunlight. Exercise caution if walking barefoot. Footwear may be required. Heat build-up from external sources could possibly damage Fiberon decking surfaces. Examples would include reflected light from different types of glass (ex. low-e glass), fire features, and under-deck waterproofing installations that do not provide the 1.5 inches (4 cm) of unobstructed ventilation.

LOW-E GLASS/REFLECTED HEAT

Low-emissivity (Low-E) glass is designed to prevent heat gain inside the house by reflecting sunlight outward. This reflective property can result in excessive heat build-up on the surface of Fiberon decking. Damage caused could include melting, sagging, warping, discoloration, increased expansion and contraction, and accelerated weathering.

If you have questions on how to reduce this risk, contact the manufacturer of the product containing the Low-E glass for suggestions on how to reduce or eliminate the reflected heat.

FIRE FEATURES/FIRE PITS AND GRILLS

Fire features and fire pits are increasingly popular in outdoor living environments. Improperly installed fire features or fire pits can damage the surface of Fiberon decking via direct exposure to the flame or excessive radiated heat. Proper caution should be taken when designing, installing, and using these features to ensure damage does not result. Fire features and grills should be kept at least 12 inches from the deck and rail surfaces.





RUBBER MATS

Welcome mats or grill mats with a rubber, vinyl or latex backing can mark your deck. The marks can be removed; however, we recommend using high-quality polypropylene or colorfast woven rugs to avoid the problem. Flower pots can also create potential problems. When pots, trays, etc., sit directly on the deck surface, moisture can get trapped. Over time, minerals and fertilizer/plant food can build up and result in a white discoloration on the boards. We recommend using a plant stand or other structure to elevate the pot and enable air flow underneath.

STATIC

Dry or windy environments may create a temporary condition of static electricity. Climate and site conditions may also influence the occurrence of static electricity. Heat pumps and dryer vents that are close to, or pointed toward the decking material, can also generate static electricity on the deck. Always position the dryer vents away from the deck. In the case of excessive static buildup on an installed PVC or capped composite deck, we recommend the following:

1. Remove loose debris from the deck surface.
2. Dilute ACL Staticide® Concentrate 1 part to 39 parts water (1:39).
3. Spray or mop entire surface of the deck. Allow to air dry. Do not attempt to wipe the surface dry as wiping will reduce the effectiveness of the anti-static coating.

(*Although very safe in diluted form, ACL Staticide Concentrate is considered a hazardous chemical if left undiluted. DO NOT use ACL Staticide Concentrate undiluted.)

UNDER-DECK WATERPROOFING SYSTEMS

Properly installed, under-deck waterproofing systems can provide additional living or storage space. Improper installations are those that restrict air flow and result in buildup of heat and/or humidity, which can result in unwanted consequences.

Contact the manufacturer of the specific under-deck waterproofing system for installation instructions to ensure the required 1.5 inches (4 cm) of unobstructed cross-ventilation and air flow is achieved. If already installed, seek methods to achieve the cross-ventilation requirement.

LADDER USAGE TIPS

- When using a ladder, place it on a piece of 3/4-inch plywood firmly secured to the deck surface. This will disperse the load of the ladder's feet to nearby underlying joists.
- Drill fasteners downward through the top of the plywood sheet into the deck board gaps. Ensure fasteners reach into the joists to keep the plywood from slipping. This will avoid holes left in your decking once the plywood sheet is removed.
- Always follow the ladder manufacturer's instructions and safety tips as well.

FIBERON PARAMOUNT PVC DECKING

- Recommended cleaners for Paramount® PVC Decking include Simple Green, Krud Kutter® Cleaner Degreaser and DeckMAX® PVC Revitalizing Wipes. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and test in an inconspicuous area prior to using on the deck surface.
- Certain chemical ingredients in insect repellents and sunblock could cause a reaction and leave a stain on the decking surface. Do not apply these products while standing on the deck. Similarly, if you have sunblock, suntan lotion, or insect repellent on your feet, do not walk on the decking barefoot. The product could rub off onto the boards.



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