



DECK CARE & MAINTENANCE

Your deck has been built using timber supplied by Arbour Landscape Solutions. This timber is called Southern Yellow Pine and is a sustainable, high grade, durable timber grown on the eastern seaboard of the USA. It will naturally darken with UV exposure to a nut brown colour, then over a period of many years, will weather to a mellow silver colour. However some basic maintenance during this time 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.

Shortly after installation we recommend a coat of [Owatrol Seasonite](#) which can be applied with a normal garden sprayer.

Owatrol Seasonite seals the deck, reducing water ingress. This helps reduce checking and protects it from algal growth, improving slip resistance and reducing staining.

Thereafter, we use and recommend a range of specialist deck maintenance products for future deck treatment and care. <https://www.arbourlandscapesolutions.co.uk/timber-treatments/>

- 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 algaecide is Hydrogen peroxide, available as a neat chemical and often found in branded algaecide cleaning products. Use of the chemical with a deck scrubbing brush and pressure washer to remove residue is an effective way of killing algae. Use with care and following any instructions on the packaging.
- 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.. 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.

Call 0208 953 6177

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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 6 months 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.