



Britedeck™

Cleaning and maintenance guide

With proper installation and care, Britedeck™ will provide years of enjoyment as long as you follow these sensible guidelines. The best feature of composite products is that there is no need for staining, oiling or painting and the deck will continue to last without rotting, cracking etc. Here are a few **dos and don'ts**, recommendations and guidelines on the best methods to keep your Brite composite deck looking its absolute best.

Periodic Inspection

Periodic inspection and cold water washing of the deck surface is recommended. We cannot predict what type of environment in which the decking will be installed in; however, testing has shown that periodic general cleaning will avoid build-up on the decking surface which may cause unwanted accumulations of dirt, grime etc.

The decking is NOT indestructible

If you drag heavy or sharp objects across the surface, you can expect it to scratch just as all other composite or wood decking materials. Britedeck™ is unique in that you can still service boards which have been damaged. Either by steel brushing the surface in the direction of the grain or by flipping a board over and using the other side. Any colour difference will disappear in 8-10 weeks.

Here is a guide to how you can clean you decking occasionally.

Cleaning with high pressure hose.

Required Items for cleaning:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Soap Cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponge | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hard Bristled Broom | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> | High Pressure Water Washer | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Step 1:

Apply soapy water to your deck with a sponge.

Step 2:

Sweep the deck using Hard-bristled broom in the direction of the grain, and clean to remove all the dust in between the gaps of the decking.

Step 3:

If you still have any stubborn dirt or residue use high pressure hose over the deck to remove any unavoidable residue. (this is a very effective way to clean hard dirt). We recommend Karcher Hi-Pressure Water Washer.

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Basic Cleaning Recommendations

General Cleaning

A simple sweep of the deck area will generally prevent the build-up of dirt and grime that can lead to unwanted marks, stains and mould on your deck. As with wood, the longer your deck is dirty, the more work it will take to get it clean again. Using “sugar soap” or “sard wonder soap” solutions generally removes most dirt and grime.

Painting/staining/sealing

Brite Manufacturing does not recommend the use of any paint or staining products on your BriteDeck™. This will void your warranty.

Mould

Wash your deck periodically with either a standard household detergent or a dilution of bleach. Use a stiff brush to scrub heavily stained surfaces following the grain. Rinse off your BriteDeck™ regularly with a hose and coldwater. Even if your deck appears clean, it is important to prevent the build-up of pollen/debris. Mildew needs a food source to grow, which can be grass, pollens, dirt, debris, woodfibre and wood resins.

Maintaining a clean, dry deck surface is the best method for combating mildew. Ensure that water drains effectively from your deck. Keeping weep holes and spaces between boards clear and unclogged. For BriteDeck™, be sure that gaps exist between planks to allow for proper drainage.

Ice and Snow

If you reside in a cold weather climate where ice and snow periodically accumulate on your deck, and you must shovel the decking, always shovel in the direction the brushing pattern runs.

Spot Stains

For oil-based stains such as BBQ fat or sunscreen lotion, a dilution of household degreaser works very well. For extra heavy oil and grease stains or other specific staintypes, check with your local hardware store for cleaners applicable to a specific stain type. If stains have set, you may want to use a steel wire brush and brush lightly, following the wood grain finish of the plank. The brushed area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks. Consider using a rubber mat under your BBQ.

Rust, ground-in dirt and grime

The most effective way is to use a cleaner containing Phosphoric Acid. Follow the manufacturer's application instructions. If the stains have set, you may use a steel wire brush and brush lightly to re-grain the decking. Always follow the wood grain finish of the plank. The brushed area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks but can vary depending on location and specific application. Consider using a mat under items that may leave stains. Try to periodically sweep dirt from under any mats, flower pots or other stationary items where moisture and dirt may build up.

Tannin stains

Like any wood-based product, BriteDeck™ may experience a naturally occurring process called Extractive Bleeding. This process may cause a temporary discolouration that will weather away. It may typically appear as dark coloured rings & in most cases, they should disappear within 8-10 weeks but could vary depending on location and specific application – such as a covered porch. If you try to clean the surface, it is likely that you will have to begin the 8-10 week weathering cycle once again.

Our Cleaning and maintenance guide may change without notice. For further information email sales@briedecking.com.au

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