



ekodeck  
ekodeck+

## CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE



### CARE & MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ is not a self-cleaning product and will need to be washed down periodically, especially in undercover or alfresco areas.

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ performs best when exposed to the elements. Rain and UV generally degrade and wash away most stains naturally. When the boards are used under alfresco areas, more manual cleaning may be required.

The amount of cleaning depends on what you consider to be acceptable. Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ is an outdoor product and like any external product, it requires cleaning depending on its usage, surrounding environment and your level of tolerance to dirt.

This guide will give you some basic principles that will help you maintain the natural beauty of your Ekodeck or Ekodeck+.

### GENERAL CLEAN

A general clean is essential immediately after installation to remove tannins and surface debris from installation. To perform a general clean, scrub the deck in the direction of the grain with hot water mixed with dishwashing liquid or sugar soap using a medium bristle brush. Wash down thoroughly with a high-pressure washer or garden hose with a fan spray nozzle. Squeegee off the water and mop any wet areas.



#### **WARNING!**

The use of a pressure washer greater than 1,500 PSI and/or applied closer than 30cm from the decking surface could damage the deck. Do not use dirt blaster type nozzles.

## SCRATCHES AND SCUFF MARKS

Over time and especially just after installation Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ may scratch or scuff. This is normal as the boards are a prefinished product and will take some time to wear in to your surrounding environment and the way you use your deck. Seek appropriate surface protection for your furniture such as self-adhesive pads or protective tips if required.

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+'s colour is consistent all the way through so you can sand it to remove scratches and scuff marks. Use coarse grit sandpaper (40 grit or less) and lightly hand sand in the direction of the grain.

## OIL AND GREASE STAINS

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ absorbs oil and grease like an open (unsealed) fibre material and given the common usage of decks, oil and grease stains are unavoidable.

Minimising exposure is the best approach (e.g. use a grill mat under and around your BBQ), but if oil or grease does come in contact with Ekodeck or Ekodeck+, a quick clean is recommended. Stains should be treated as soon as possible using hot water mixed with dishwashing liquid and a medium bristle brush. The longer the oil or grease sits on the boards, the more likely it is to penetrate and stain the surface.

More stubborn oil/grease stains can be treated with Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 2.

1. Spray Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 2 directly onto the spot stain. Leave for 1 minute to penetrate.
2. Scrub treated areas with hot water and dishwashing liquid (i.e. Morning Fresh) with a deck scrubbing brush.
3. Pressure wash/rinse off with hot water (preferred).
4. Squeegee water off the end of the deck with a squeegee broom.
5. Mop any wet areas with a clean sponge mop to remove any excess water.
6. Allow the deck to dry completely.

Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 2 needs detergent to be washed away properly. If the deck is dry and the treated areas are still looking patchy or oily, use more dishwashing liquid and re-wash the affected areas again. If there are remaining oil patches from Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 2 it will generally evaporate once it dries.

## BEVERAGE STAINS

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ can stain from beverages such as coffee, soft drinks, beer and red wine. Generally, if the spillage is quickly mopped up there will not be any stainage sustained. Stains should be treated as soon as possible using hot water mixed with dishwashing liquid and a medium bristle brush.

In the event that a beverage does sit on the deck long enough to take, these stains can be treated using Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 1.

1. Spray Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 1 directly onto the spot stain. Leave for 1 minute to penetrate.
2. Scrub treated areas with hot water and dishwashing liquid (i.e. Morning Fresh) with a deck scrubbing brush.
3. Pressure wash/rinse off with hot water (preferred).
4. Squeegee water off the end of the deck with a squeegee broom.
5. Mop any wet areas with a clean sponge mop to remove any excess water.
6. Allow the deck to dry completely.

Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 1 needs detergent to be washed away properly. If the deck is dry and the treated areas are still looking patchy or oily, use more dishwashing liquid and re-wash the affected areas again. If there are remaining oil patches from Mötsenböcker's Lift Off 1 it will generally evaporate once it dries.

Please note, red wine is particularly hard to remove if left over time and may require repeated applications. Further exposure to the weather may also help this stain to fade naturally.

## WATER MARKS/TANNINS

At the time of installation, it is essential to clean your deck to remove tannins and/or surface debris from the boards. Since reclaimed timber is part of the composition, the level of tannins in the boards may vary and therefore could require additional cleaning to remove them completely.

Tannins are naturally found in timber which is a component of the product. They will naturally excrete from the boards over time which may also create marks.

When surface debris exists on your deck, water marks can appear as the debris may gravitate towards the perimeter of water droplets when it dries, thereby creating a 'shoreline' effect. These water marks occur naturally in all composite decking, especially if water is left to pool for extended periods. Also, dirty water, dripping water or condensation can cause water marks. These marks are made worse if the deck has a lot of surface dirt to begin with which is why it is essential to clean your deck at the time of installation.

A quick wash with clean, hot water will wash away most marks.

Procedure to lift water marks:

1. Pour hot water mixed with dishwashing liquid on the deck.
2. Let it sit for 5 minutes.
3. Work it in with a medium bristle brush.
4. Pressure wash/rinse down with hot water (preferred).
5. Squeegee water off the deck with a squeegee broom.
6. Mop any wet areas with a clean sponge mop.

Long standing water marks may require a repeated procedure.

## MOULD

Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ has been engineered and designed to be naturally resistant to decay-causing mould and microbes, making it inherently resilient when compared to ordinary timber. In order to thrive, mould needs a consistent supply of oxygen (from the atmosphere), organic food (dirt and dust), shade, moisture (humidity or surface wetness) and cooler temperatures. Keeping the Ekodeck and Ekodeck+ surface clean and well drained (especially in heavily shaded areas) is usually sufficient enough on its own to avoid mould growth.

However, some locales are more prone to mould than others. It is strongly advised to prevent mould from establishing a foothold on your deck. At the first signs of any surface mould, such as brown or black spots, you should take immediate steps to completely remove them.

Applying hot water to deactivate spores, followed by a pressure wash and thorough drying off, should be sufficient to remove surface mould from the boards.

If you are in a mould-prone location or you find mould returning to the surface, you may benefit from further treating your deck with a mould killer or inhibitor. In doing so, we recommended that you first treat a small out-of-sight (inconspicuous) section of your deck to see whether or not the treatment has any adverse effect on Ekodeck or Ekodeck+'s appearance. Make sure to always follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines.



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