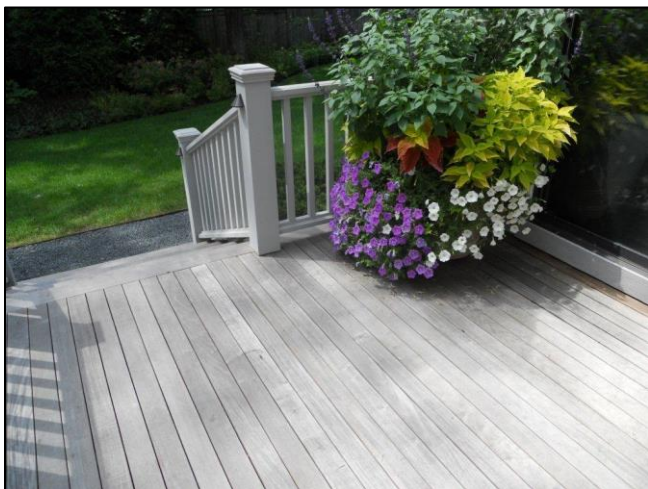


Natural Weathering vs Finishing

Technical Bulletin



The decision whether to allow your naturally durable hardwood decking to weather naturally is both an aesthetic decision and a maintenance decision.

It is recommended that your wood decking receives one coat of penetrating oil on all sides to slow the wood's acclimation process upon initial installation.

If you allow your deck to weather, UV exposure will break down the oil finish and your deck will turn silver grey over time. The only maintenance that will be required is the occasional cleaning to remove dirt and mildew.

It is important to note that mold grows on everything, even glass, if dirt or pollen is allowed to develop on any surface providing the food source for mold to grow.

This is one of the misperceptions associated with composite decking. All decking requires some level of maintenance.

If you desire to maintain the natural color of a wood deck, regular applications of penetrating oil finishes are required. The best practice is to clean your deck with a wood deck cleaner, allow it to dry thoroughly and wipe on/wipe off a fresh coat of oil every spring and every fall.

If the deck is allowed to weather grey, after cleaning you will need to apply a wood brightener to remove the grey before reapplying new oil.



When applying oil finishes always remember, less is more. You want to wipe off all excess oil just like polishing furniture. Excess oil will remain sticky, collect dust and pollen and provide food for mold. It does not extend the service life of the finish.

While there are water based finishes offered for decking, oil is preferable. It is important to note that water based finishes can be applied over oil, but oil can never be applied over water based finishes.

The benefit of wood decking over composite is that it can always be returned to its original natural color and stains will disperse over time or can be removed by cleaning and sanding. And unlike composites you don't have to worry about permanent fading, the discontinuation of colors and the associated difficulty of matching your original deck with replacement boards or additions.

In the end it is mostly an aesthetic consideration and only natural wood decking offers the ability to choose either option at any time over the life of your deck.



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