

## Care and Cleaning of your MoistureShield™ Deck

### **Tannin, Water or Rust Stains (stains which may occur during or shortly after installation):**

Although not very common, bluish-black "tannin" stains can develop on MoistureShield™ Decking. These stains are the result of a reaction between the hardwood fiber in MoistureShield™, moisture and iron salts. Iron salts can come from many wood extractive sources – nails and fasteners, metal banding, patio furniture, even saw blades and tools used during construction. These stains will naturally fade over time or they can be removed with a deck brightener or deck cleaner containing oxalic acid (commonly known as wood brighteners) such as Cabot Problem Solver (link to website) or Behr No. 63 (link to website). *Using a deck brightener or deck cleaner containing oxalic or phosphoric acid it may lighten the surface of your deck. Follow manufacturer instructions.*

Use only the ballistic nail screw or a stainless steel fastener, as lower-quality fasteners such as electroplated or galvanized may cause staining. On newly installed decks, run-off from metal objects such as decorative iron railings can create some temporary staining. These rust stains can also be easily removed with the use of a deck or deck cleaner containing phosphoric or oxalic acid such as Cabot Problem Solver (link) or Behr No 63 (link). (Ingredients will be listed on the front label or on the label on the back of the bottle.)

*\*Follow all package directions for proper usage, safety precautions and disposal. In some cases more stubborn stains will require reapplying cleaners until the desired level of cleanliness is achieved. At times, brushing the deck with a hard bristle brush may be necessary to remove any stubborn staining. Remember to always test chosen cleaners in a small inconspicuous area of your deck for approved results. Never mix any other cleaners (ammonia, phosphoric acid, etc.) with bleach.*

### **Mold & Mildew (stains which may occur two months or longer after installation):**

Since mold and mildew are naturally occurring in the environment, we cannot guarantee that mold and mildew will not grow on your deck. Mold and mildew are a form of plant life spread by spores that can settle onto any surface where moisture, pollen, dirt and debris collect. Air currents, insects, animals and water easily transport spores. Due to mold and mildew's adaptability and the large number of species that exist, they are very hard to control and impossible to totally eliminate. Periodic cleaning of your deck with a mold and mildew cleaner, even if it "appears" clean, is important in order to prevent the build-up of pollen, dirt, and environmental debris. Regular periodic cleaning can help prevent the reoccurrence of mold and mildew. Products used to clean mold and mildew may lighten the deck surface.

It is important that any cleaning procedure fully remove the web like "legs" of the mold and mildew colonies, penetrate the water repellent outer surface, and remove the food source. There are specially formulated "composite deck or deck cleaners" available at your local hardware store designed for easy garden hose application. Always use a fan tip nozzle with no more than 1300 psi when using a power washer. Keep nozzle 8-10" from the deck surface and work in the direction of the wood grain to avoid any possible damage. Always follow product label use instructions. Some cases may require repeat applications until the desired level of cleanliness has been achieved. As with most cleaners, always wear appropriate personal protective gear.

### **Suggested cleaners:** *(link to websites)*

Clorox Pro Results

Olympic Deck Cleaner® for mold & mildew

[http://www.olympic.com/stain\\_products/external\\_stains/cleaners/index.htm](http://www.olympic.com/stain_products/external_stains/cleaners/index.htm)

Behr Mold and Mildew Remover

[http://www.behr.com/behrx/act/view/products\\_detail?prodGroupId=41&catName=Cleaners+and+Conditioners&catId=3](http://www.behr.com/behrx/act/view/products_detail?prodGroupId=41&catName=Cleaners+and+Conditioners&catId=3)

Outdoor bleach

Expert Chemical™ Composite Deck Cleaner

<http://www.expertchemicalinc.com/shop/item.asp?itemid=11>

Jomax Deck Cleaner

[http://www.zinsser.com/product\\_detail.asp?ProductID=65](http://www.zinsser.com/product_detail.asp?ProductID=65)

Krud Kutter House Wash

<http://www.krudkutter.com/outdoorproducts.asp>

Armor All E-Z Deck Wash

<http://www.armorallhomecare.com/>

***\*Most Cleaners contain Sodium Hypochlorite (commonly known as bleach) Any cleaner containing bleach may lighten the surface wood fibers of the product while removing mold stains.***

Always spray water on plants and shrubs around deck before and after the use of any deck cleaning solutions.

### **Eco-Friendly Alternatives (containing no bleach):**

Corte Clean Composite Deck Cleaner (link to website)

**For added protection and to delay regrowth of mold and mildew, treat deck with one of the following products only *after you deck has been thoroughly cleaned:***

Concrobium Mold Control (link to website)

Zinsser Perma-Wash (link to website)

Zinsser Jomax (use product with bleach following mixing directions) (link to website)

Mold can spread and may return rapidly in some environments despite proper cleaning and preventative measures. Mold will not effect or damage the integrity of MoistureShield™ products.

### **Grease stains:**

For grease stains, The use a good degreaser such as Zep® Citrus or Greased Lightning® *Please note it is important to wipe away spills immediately after they occurs with the use of a quality detergent containing a surfactant such as Dawn liquid soap.* Spray degreaser liberally on affected area then scrub spot with a plastic bristled brush. Let sit for 5 minutes and wash off with water. Note; degreasing agents may temporarily lighten the surface wood fibers of your deck.

### **Tips for Preventing Mold Growth:**

- Ensure proper deck gapping is achieved during installation (refer to installation guidelines)

- Ensure deck plank gapping is clear and free of debris
- Always wash deck after heavy pollen season
- Ensure proper ventilation around structure of deck
- Avoid any direct water discharge from gutters onto deck surface
- Avoid over spray of fertilizers on and around deck

A.E.R.T.'s warranty states under Exclusions: This warranty does not cover damage of defects resulting from or in any way attributable to: (l) environmental conditions such as mold or mildew on decking surface; (m) lack of proper cleaning; (n) staining from oil, grease, dirt (or other external substance). For additional cleaning tips, please contact our MoistureShield™ Customer Service Department.



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