



# POLIWOOD

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

## Care and Maintenance for Poliwood

Keep your Poliwood deck looking sharp for years to come! Like all outdoor building products, a regular maintenance schedule is recommended to ensure your deck sustains its original beauty. Fortunately, Poliwood is relatively low maintenance - just a little care will go a long way. Maintain the beauty of your deck by following the care and maintenance instructions below!

### General Cleaning and Preventative Tips

- Sweep your deck on a regular basis to prevent the buildup of dirt.
- To reduce the chances of tannins forming on your deck, don't allow damp leaves to remain on your deck; these may discolor the boards. Generally, a broom or a blower will work better than a hose for removing scattered foliage.
- Allow for proper water drainage; standing water can cause discoloration. Dislodge accumulated dirt and debris between planks with a broom.
- If food or drink is spilled, clean the deck immediately with soapy water made with mild dishwashing detergent and a soft sponge/rag.
- Install a splash guard mat under your grill to help protect your deck from grease stains.
- Mix pool solutions away from the deck. Be careful not to spill undiluted chlorine or pool salt directly on the boards.
- While normal day to day activities will not scratch your decking, like timber or any other surface, excessive activities will damage the surface. For example, skateboarding or dragging heavy furniture may cause the exterior to scratch, abrade or chip.
- We recommend fixing pads under your outdoor chairs to stop the constant dragging wearing away the exterior over time. Unlike timber decking, composite decking cannot be sanded back.

### Removing Dirt, Debris, and Tannins

Tannins can form when organic material gets stuck within the gaps of the deck and water starts to pool under it. It is best to remove debris from gaps with a garden hose or soft bristle broom. Keeping the gaps clean will reduce the chances of tannins from forming.

To clean your deck, spray the affected area with a water hose to remove dirt from surface. Use warm soapy water made with mild dishwashing detergent and a soft sponge/rag to remove any dirt buildup (avoid using strong products like bleach, SLR, sugar soap, etc). Scrubbing in the direction of the grain works best. Thoroughly rinse off with garden hose when complete.

### Oil, Grease and Food

All oil, grease and food spills should be cleaned up as quickly as possible. Use warm soapy water made with mild dishwashing detergent and a soft non-metal scrub brush or a sponge/rag to remove any oil or grease. Thoroughly rinse off with garden hose when complete.

**Note:** Oil / Grease / Food and well-known staining items like red wine must be removed from the surface within 72 hours to maintain the 25 - Year Limited Warranty.

### Mold and Mildew

Mold & mildew are commonly found on outdoor building materials. To prevent pollen and debris buildup, periodic cleaning is best. If mold/mildew is present, use warm soapy water made with mild dishwashing detergent and a soft sponge/rag to remove. Thoroughly rinse off with a garden hose when complete.

### Pressure Washing

If used incorrectly, pressure-washing can cause damage and wear to a composite deck. Skilled professionals may use a pressure washer with wide fan tips, at low pressures under 1,500 psi and at safe distances, 400mm above deck. In the wrong hands, your composite deck can be damaged. Exercise extreme caution.

## Sealing your Deck

Fortunately, sealing your Poliwood decking is not necessary! By keeping a regular maintenance schedule and following the recommend tips described above you can protect your deck from permanent staining and damage.

## Ice and Snow

Apply calcium chloride or rock salt if needed. Be sure to thoroughly rinse off deck surface later to avoid residue build up. A plastic shovel may be used; never use a metal shovel or sharp-edged tools to remove snow and ice.

## Irregular Heat Sources/Fire

Caution should be taken when irregular heat sources and/or fire is present to ensure no damage occurs to the deck. Because composite decking has the tendency to retain heat whenever presented directly or indirectly to it irregular heat sources, such as, but not limited to, fire pits, fireplaces, and barbecue grills, and fire may damage the surface of Poliwood decking.

## Masonry Construction

If any masonry construction needs to take place near or on the deck itself, it must always be fully covered preferably with a tarp or construction grade plastic film. Leftover mineral deposits can mix with water and evaporate leaving a white haze on the deck material. To prevent this, it is a best practice to complete all masonry construction before installing your Poliwood decking.

## Mineral Deposits

Mineral deposits appear on the deck surface when regular cleaning of Poliwood does not occur. These deposits appear because of rain mixing with runoff from roofs, soil/dirt, pathways, etc. that when evaporated on the deck, creates a haze. Sometimes, it will appear that your deck has faded, but fortunately these mineral deposits can be cleaned, restoring the beauty of your deck!

You can use vinegar and water or powdered laundry detergent to remove the mineral deposits.

### Removing mineral deposits with vinegar and water:

1. Create a of 1-part vinegar, 1-part water solution and fill a bucket.
2. Apply to boards with a sponge, mop, rag, or a pump-up garden sprayer and let the solution sit on the deck boards for at least five minutes.
3. Use steel wool and begin to scrub in the direction of the grain. If there is a thick haze of mineral deposits, you may need to scrub the deck rather hard in order to remove the buildup. **Note:** Never scrub against the wood grain.
4. After scrubbing for several minutes, rinse thoroughly with water and dry with a towel to see if the cleaning was effective in removing the mineral deposits. **Note:** In extreme cases of thick mineral deposit buildups, it may take repeating these steps multiple times.

### Removing mineral deposits with powdered laundry detergent:

1. Take the powdered laundry detergent and sprinkle it directly on the deck boards.
2. Pour water over the detergent and rub it into the boards using a rag.
3. Allow the detergent and water to sit on the boards for at least five minutes, then begin scrubbing with steel wool in the direction of the grain. **Note:** Never scrub against the wood grain.
4. After scrubbing for several minutes, rinse thoroughly with water and dry with a towel to see if the cleaning was effective in removing the mineral deposits. **Note:** In extreme cases of thick mineral deposits buildups, it may take repeating these steps multiple times.