

How to Get the Best Out of Your Deck

Step 1: Preparation

Hardwoods.

1. Hardwoods should be left uncoated for as long as possible, until all extractives have leached from the timber fibres and the timber is thoroughly dry. For oily resinous timbers such as Merbau (Kwila), Tallowwood, Blackbutt etc allow a minimum of 3 – 6 months. For very dense, slow drying timbers such as Spotted Gum, Ironbark, Yellow Balau, Batu etc a minimum of 6 months is recommended. During this period regularly hose down the timber to assist the leaching process.

NB The kiln drying process removes excess moisture (water) from the timber but does not necessarily remove the extractives.

2. Clean the timber surface with a solution of Oxalic acid (100 grams) mixed with (1 litre) warm water, alternatively use a premixed solution known as “deck cleaner / timber cleaner / timber rejuvenator” etc. Repeat as required. Allow the timber to dry at least 2 – 3 warm dry days prior to application of a coating.
3. Thoroughly sand / abrade the surface with a very coarse grit sand paper (60 – 80 grade) to raise the grain. This process will provide the best surface for penetration and adhesion of the coating.

Softwoods.

1. Heavily coat the end grains.
2. Once deck is installed allow approximately 1 week for the timber to adjust to surrounding climatic conditions.
3. Thoroughly sand the timber as per hardwoods above.

Step 2: Choose a coating

Hardwoods.

- Apply 3 coats Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade); OR
- Apply 1 coat Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats Cetol Deck; OR
- Apply 1 coat Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats Cetol Deck Slip Resistant.

Softwoods.

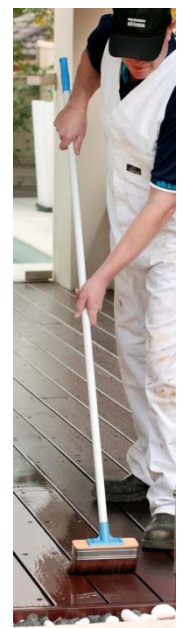
- Apply 3 coats Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade); OR
- Apply 1 coat Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats Cetol Deck; OR
- Apply 1 coat Cetol HLSe (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats Cetol Deck Slip Resistant; OR
- Apply 3 coats Cetol Deck.

The difference between above systems:

- Cetol HLSe is a low build coating system therefore penetrates more effectively into very hard, dense timbers - eg Merbau (Kwila), Jarrah, Blackbutt, Batu (Yellow Balau), Ironbark, Spotted Gum etc. Provides a low satin sheen as well as simple maintenance.
- Cetol Deck has a higher solids content (than Cetol HLSe), resulting in a thicker coating and a higher build, satin gloss appearance with good abrasion resistance.
- Cetol Deck Slip Resistant has a slight texture providing a slip-resistant finish ideal for use around pools, ramps, stairs and other 'wet' areas.

Step 3: Application

- Coatings should only be applied with a good quality, natural bristle brush, eg Tenaru Timber & Finishes' **Ezee Deck Brush**. Applicator pads, paint rollers etc tend to lay a thin coat lightly over the surface resulting in reduced penetration and adhesion of the coating, as well as a reduced film build, all of which may contribute to premature wear of the coating.
- Allow at least 24 hours drying time between coats, or as long as required for the previous coat to become completely tack free.
- Do not sand between coats.
- Always apply coatings along the grain, never across and for the full length of a board.
- Avoid coating onto hot surfaces or in strong sunlight / with strong shadows.
- After the final coat has dried allow the coating to cure (harden) at least 7 days prior to returning furniture or allowing heavy foot traffic on the surface.



Step 4: Maintenance

Every 12 months, or earlier if required, as the coating begins to show signs of wear / loss of sheen level / reduced water repellency:

1. Wash with mild detergent and water, rinse well and allow several days to dry.
2. Lightly scuff the existing film with 180 grade sand paper, dust down.
3. Apply a fresh coat, or two, of product used last.

Important points to note:

- Above time frames for seasoning (weathering), drying after washing & coating and maintenance are an indication only. Every piece of timber will react differently and maintenance is dependent on many factors including: weather conditions, aspect, exposure, usage, colour chosen etc.
- *Due to the intense UV in Australia, Sikkens products are not available in a colourless. Cetol HLSe is available in 9 transparent shades, Cetol Deck and Cetol Deck Slip Resistant are available in 1 shade only (078 Natural - honey amber tint). Generally darker pigments result in extended longevity in areas of full sun.
- When sanding prior to initial application, do not sand to a smooth (almost glazed-like) surface as this will reduce the penetration and adhesion of the coating.
- The coatings are abrasion resistant, not scratch proof, therefore when moving items (furniture, pots etc) across the decking pick them up rather than drag across the surface. You may also wish to purchase adhesive felt pads to put under chair and table legs to reduce scratching of the film.



For further information, contact us on 02 9360 4500 or 1300 SIKKENS (74 55 36); sales@tenaru.com.au or www.tenaru.com.au

The effectiveness of our systems is based on many years of practical experience and laboratory research. Nevertheless, we cannot accept, without prior investigation, any liability for the work produced according to these systems as the ultimate result depends on factors beyond our control.