

HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR DECK



Important guidelines for a better deck:-

Note: A horizontal surface, such as a timber deck, is the greatest challenge to both the timber and its coating(s). Not only is it subject to the extremes of weather - sun / rain / hail etc - but also physical abrasion from foot traffic, moving furniture etc.

Timbers used are a range of hardwoods (air or kiln dried), and softwoods (kiln dried, preservative treated for exterior use.) The following steps should be followed:-

STEP 1: PREPARATION.

Hardwoods.

1. All 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 Kwila (Merbau), Tallowood, Blackbutt, etc a minimum of 3 - 6 months is recommended. For very dense, slow drying timbers such as Spotted Gum, Yellow Balau, Batu, Ironbark, Ulin, etc we recommend a minimum of 6 months. During this period regularly hose the surface with water to assist the extractives (eg tannins) to leach from the timber, as well as ensuring that the moisture content “adjusts” to the “surrounding” climatic conditions – ie stabilises. NB The kiln drying process does not necessarily remove extractives from the timber fibres. Before the deck is laid it is advisable to heavily coat the end grains: this will minimize moisture entry into the wood fibres.

Coating must be deferred until the entire leaching / bleeding / drying process has ceased!

2. If the timber is greasy or shows signs of discolouration, clean surface with a solution of Oxalic acid (100 grams) mixed with (1 litre) warm water, alternatively use a premixed solution known as a “wood cleaner”/ “timber rejuvenator” etc. Allow the timber to completely dry for several days.
3. Prior to coating, belt sand / abrade the entire surface with a very coarse grit sand paper (approx 60 – 80 grade) to raise the grain. This will provide the best surface for coating penetration and adhesion.

Softwoods.

1. Heavily coat end grains.
2. Once deck has been installed, allow approximately 1 week for the timber to adjust to the surrounding atmospheric conditions.
3. Thoroughly sand the decking, as per hardwoods.

Step 2: Choose a coating.

Hardwoods.

- Apply 3 coats of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade); OR
- Apply 1 coat of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats of Cetol Deck.
- Apply 1 coat of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats of Cetol Deck Plus (slip-resistant).

Softwoods.

- Apply 3 coats of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade); OR
- Apply 1 coat of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats of Cetol Deck; OR
- Apply 1 coat of Cetol HLS (*in your chosen shade), followed by 2 coats of Cetol Deck Plus (slip-resistant); OR
- Apply 3 coats of Cetol Deck.

***Choice of a darker pigment will provide improved UV protection thus longevity in conditions of strong sunlight.**

NB: Cetol HLS, a thinner product used as a primer, achieves greater penetration and adhesion on those dense / hard timbers used for decking material.

**Step 3: Application.**

- **We strongly recommend using a good quality long hair natural bristle brush to ensure good penetration and adhesion of the applied coatings, as well as achieving adequate film build.** (Lambswool applicator pads / paint rollers tend to spread the product too thin and lay the product lightly over the surface, therefore reducing penetration and adhesion.)
- Allow at least 24 – 48 hours drying time between coats. For very dense timbers or less than ideal conditions (cool temperatures, high humidity, and application late in the day) additional drying time may be required.
- Always ensure previous coat is thoroughly dry and tack-free before applying the next coat.
- Always coat following the grain, for the full length of a board.
- Avoid coating surfaces in direct sunlight and / or upon hot surfaces.
- After the final coat has dried, avoid heavy foot traffic or placing furniture upon the surface for at least 7 days to allow the coatings to cure.

Step 4: Maintenance.

Every 12 months, or earlier if required, as the finish begins to show signs of wear:

1. Wash the surface with mild detergent and water, rinse well and allow to thoroughly dry for several days.
2. Lightly rub the surface with 180 grit sand paper.
3. Apply a refresher coat, or 2, of product used last.

**If in doubt, contact us on 02 9360 4500 or 1300 SIKKENS (74 55 36). Website: www.tenaru.com.au
Email: sales@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 also depends on factors beyond our control.