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Your aftercare guide to
happy hours outdoors with
Millboard decking

About Millboard decking

Millboard is the leading wood-look decking, enhancing outdoor spaces with enduring distinction.

Hand-moulded from the finest pieces of oak, it boasts refined timber grain that replicates natural timber but is engineered to offer an enhanced decking experience.

Thanks to its unique mineral polymer resin construction, our decking does not rot or need to be constantly oiled like natural wood. Additionally, our unique surface provides exceptional slip-resistance, even when wet.

Stunning to look at, sound in all weathers, and simple to look after.

We wish you many happy hours alfresco. Enjoy!



The beauty of Millboard decking, as well as its looks, is how little you have to do to keep it looking great. Compared to timber, its surface is largely resistant to scratches, food and drink stains, and everyday use.

As Millboard decking is an outdoor surface it will need cleaning to remove dirt particles or any foreign substances that find their way onto the board surface.

Here are a few points on how to clean and look after your Millboard decking, which apply to all cleaning solutions:



Wet the area with water 10-15 minutes before applying any cleaning solution. Test all cleaning methods or solutions in an inconspicuous area first before applying to a larger area of the deck



All cleaning solutions should be used in accordance with the instructions and safety information provided by the manufacturer. Test all cleaning methods and solutions in an inconspicuous area first before applying to a larger area of the deck



Use a stiff brush to thoroughly scrub the surface of the boards. The most effective type of brush has natural bristles that are around 50mm in length, which can get into the depth of the grain and dislodge dirt particles



Pressure washers can be used carefully on Millboard decking for cleaning and rinsing. We would recommend following the below guidelines:

- A PSI no greater than 2,000 should be used, with a 40 to 60 degree spread fan tip
- The head should always be kept around 300mm away from the surface
- Please note that using pressure washers may increase the chance of screw holes becoming more visible
- Direct, prolonged, and intense contact could damage the surface of the boards



General purpose cleaning

We recommend cleaning your deck twice a year or as required, dependant on location and usage. This is to remove leaves and general dirt particles; areas under trees or by foliage will require more cleaning than open areas

Generally, cleaning can be done with a common household detergent mixed with warm water, however a specified decking cleaner can be used - such as 'Jeyes Decking Power'

The cleaning solution is to help lift dirt out of the grain and a stiff brush should be used to scrub the surface of the boards, rinsing with plenty of clean water after cleaning.

Stain removal

The risk of marking from strong dyes and stains such as berries and animal droppings will be reduced if they are removed as soon as possible, this also applies to cooking oils or fats that come into contact with the surface of the boards.

Remove spills and marks with plenty of water, a mild detergent and a cloth or brush (solvents or chemical cleaners are not typically required).

Stubborn marks or stains may be removed with a range of different, specialist cleaners depending on the issue.

Below we have outlined a few possible situations that may arise and the remedial solutions.



Grease, oil, grime and larger dirt particles

- For stubborn marks or stains that could arise from general dirt, clay or sand, or instances where grease and oil has got onto the boards surface, we would recommend a product called *Selden F014*. This cleaner cuts through grease, oil and grime. It has a high alkaline content, so care should be taken when using it
- With a stiff brush, remove any surface debris off the deck before soaking the decking and starting any cleaning
- Start with a dilution of 1 part '*Selden F014*' to 40 parts water and move to a dilution of 1:20 for heavy duty cleaning – if using a pressure washer the dilution should be 1:50. The water can be hot or cold
- For best results, spray liberally onto the surface of the deck – a garden sprayer will suffice – and scrub vigorously. This will allow any dirt particles to be suspended in the liquid
- Leave for 5 – 10 minutes then re-scrub, but do not allow to dry out
- After cleaning, rinse off with lots of clean water to remove any residues
- Stubborn areas may need more than one treatment



Concrete, cement and general building dust stains

- If the board surface has been contaminated with general building dust, which could include: cement, concrete, render, plaster, brick, stone or others, we would firstly recommend cleaning the area with 'Selden F014' using the guidance in the 'Grease, oil, grime and larger general dirt particles' section on the previous page
- If the stain persists, we recommend using 'Selden H002'. As it is a highly acidic solution, care should be taken when using it
- With a stiff brush, remove any surface debris off the deck before soaking the deck and starting any cleaning
- Start with a dilution of 1 part 'Selden H002' to 10 parts water. Move to a dilution of 1:5 for heavy-duty cleaning. If using a pressure washer, the dilution should be 1:50. The water can be hot or cold.
- For best results, spray liberally onto the surface of the deck (a garden sprayer will suffice) and scrub vigorously. This will allow any stains to be dissolved in the liquid
- Leave for 5 –10 minutes then re-scrub, but do not allow to dry out
- After cleaning, rinse off with lots of clean water to remove any residues
- Stubborn areas may need more than one treatment and/or increased contact time
- A pressure washer may also be used in accordance with the guidance set out on Page 2.



Limescale, rust and tannin stains

- Limescale can develop on the boards after 'hard water' (high mineral content water) has evaporated. Rust can be from metal fillings or from red soil which contains iron oxide
- Tannins can leach onto the surface of the boards from natural debris (leaves, pine cones and needles etc) in the immediate environment. Rust and Tannin stains may look more obvious on light coloured boards.
- These situations can be cleaned with *Zep Commercial Lime and Rust* remover or or '*Bar Keepers Friend*'
- *Selden H002* can also be used for limescale and rust stains if they persist, please follow instructions on previous point
- Stubborn areas may need more than one treatment and/or increased contact time

Tree sap

- Tree sap is very difficult to remove, particularly when it has dried on the surface
- Better results will be achieved either by soaking the sap first or cleaning after a rainy day
- We would recommend applying oil soap to the affected area, leaving for 15 minutes, then scrubbing with a stiff brush
- Sap that has been well dried on may need soaking for longer or require more than one treatment

Keep in mind



Release agent

- As the boards are a moulded product we use a release agent in the manufacturing process, which is still on the surface when the boards are delivered. This may result in the boards appearing to have a shiny or waxed finish initially. Water puddling on the surface may be noticeable as well as dirt particles being caught on the surface
- Care should be taken whilst walking over the boards during this period
- The release agent will naturally disperse within 6-8 weeks of exposure to weathering and wear. The surface finish will then be the expected matte finish
- The process of the release agent coming off the boards surface can be accelerated by cleaning the boards with warm soapy water and a stiff brush after installation

Sharp objects

- Sharp objects such as unprotected table or chair legs, parasol bases or planter bases can leave marks if dragged across the surface, so please take care when moving these items around
- As with most decking products, animal claws or spiked shoes can cause cosmetic damage to the surface.



Surrounding building works

- Ensure boards are covered and protected from any surrounding building or landscaping works, painting, rendering or cementitious dust that could contaminate or mark the surface, especially if the boards have been recently installed
- It may be best to consider carrying out the other building works around any potential decking area some time prior to installing the boards
- Millboard will not be held responsible for issues arising from the boards being affected by other substances. However, we are able to recommend potential cleaning solutions that may be used to address contamination concerns or in situations where our guidance has not been followed

Fire pits

- Care should be taken if using a fire pit/bowl, chiminea or brazier on your Millboard deck. Fire pits should not be placed directly on to surface of the boards, as this may cause damage. The supplier of such items should confirm whether their product can be used on decking
- Any embers or burning material that fall on the boards could cause damage or lasting marks to the Millboard decking surface. These should be removed immediately
- It may be best for the heat source to be sat on a fireproof material such as a porcelain tile
- Patio heaters or infra-red heaters are not known to affect the boards

Algae

- Algae will grow where there is light, moisture, and nutrition. Therefore it can start to show on the board surface where there is dirt build-up
- Algae will not penetrate the core part of the board
- Normally all that is required is for the surface to be cleaned and scrubbed, however specific algae cleaners can be used – such as *'Algon'*.



In the heat

- As with all composite products, the surfaces of the boards tend to be hotter than timber when exposed to direct sunlight.
- Darker colours particularly will feel hotter and may be uncomfortable to walk on in bare feet
- Under direct sunlight and high temperature, footwear may be necessary
- Special caution should be taken when using decking in areas by heat/UV reflective glass, or around pools

In the cold

- Like any exterior surface, the boards will be slippery when they have frost or ice on them. Frost can be removed by lightly spreading white salt over the boards. Please don't use rock salt, as this contains clay and grit which can contaminate the boards and be abrasive
- When winter is over, clean the surface with soapy water and a brush
- Snow can be removed from the boards with a stiff broom, or with a plastic snow shovel. Please note a metal or metal faced shovel could damage the board surface

Have some more questions?

Have any questions about the content within this guide or would like further information about how best to look after your deck?

Please get in touch and our friendly team will be happy to help. You can reach us on 024 7643 9943 or enquiries@millboard.co.uk

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