

# Care and Cleaning Recommendations

## Basic Cleaning Recommendations

TimberTech highly recommends periodic cleaning of your TimberTech deck to help maintain the beauty of the product. Most deck-cleaning products will work on TimberTech. For best results use a cleaner that contains any of the following as an active ingredient for general cleaning and follow the manufacturer's instruction for use:.

- Phosphoric Acid
- Oxalic Acid
- Hydrochloric Acid
- Sodium Hypochlorite

Power washing will enhance results when cleaning your TimberTech deck. 1500psi is the recommended maximum for TimberTech products. A fan tip nozzle should be used along with the proper cleaning product. Spray in the direction of the brush/grain pattern to avoid damaging your decking. Use caution not to damage the material and always take the proper safety precautions when operating a power washer.

## Ice and Snow

If you reside in a cold weather climate where ice and snow periodically come in contact with your deck, use calcium chloride or rock salt to melt the ice and snow.

## Mildew

Wash your deck periodically with a cleaner like Zinsser's JOMAX ([www.zinsser.com](http://www.zinsser.com)) that contains or is mixed with Sodium Hypochlorite. Follow the manufacturer's application instructions. Use a stiff brush to scrub heavily stained surfaces following the grain.

Rinse off your TimberTech deck periodically with a hose. Even if your deck appears clean, it is important to prevent build-up of pollen/debris. Mildew stains may occur where moisture, pollens, and/or dirt are present. Mildew needs a food source to grow, which can be grass, pollens, dirt, debris, wood and wood resins.

Maintaining a clean, dry deck surface is the best method for combating mildew. Ensure that water drains effectively from your deck. Keeping weep holes clear and unclogged on TimberTech Floorizon Planks. For TimberTech TwinFinish 5/4 and 2x6 planks, be sure that gaps exist between planks to allow for drainage.

## Spot Stains

Oil Eater Cleaner and Degreaser is very effective against oil, grease and other stains. For extra heavy oil and grease stains or other specific stain types, check with your local lumberyard, hardware stores or home centers for cleaners applicable to a specific stain type.

If stains have set, you may want to use fine sandpaper and sand lightly, following the wood grain finish of the plank. The sanded area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks.

## Rust, Ground-in Dirt and Grime

Use a cleaner that contains Phosphoric Acid or Oxalic Acid. Follow manufacturer's application instructions. If the stains have set, you may use fine sandpaper and sand lightly followed by a wire brush to re-grain the decking. Always follow the wood grain finish of the plank. The sanded area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks but can vary depending on location and specific application.

## Scratches, Nicks, Cuts and Grooves

For all products except TimberTech Railing, scratches, nicks, cuts and grooves can be eliminated by using a wire brush. Brushing will need to be consistent with the grain of the product and the brushed area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks.

## Tannin Stains

Like any wood based product, TimberTech may experience a naturally occurring process called Extractive Bleeding. This process may cause a temporary discoloration that will weather away. In most cases this process takes 8-10 weeks but could vary depending on location and specific application such as a covered porch. To clean these areas on your TimberTech deck, it is recommended that you use a product such as Dekswood, manufactured by Flood [www.floodco.com](http://www.floodco.com) (800) 321-3444 (available at most home centers and hardware stores), or Composite Deck Restorer from PSC Solutions [www.psc-solutions.com](http://www.psc-solutions.com) (800) 354-2926.

## Painting/Staining/Sealing

Stains and sealers that are recommended for use with TimberTech are:

- Weatherall UV Guard Deck and Fence Coating ([www.weatherall.com](http://www.weatherall.com))
- Weatherall UV Guard Exterior Wood Finish ([www.weatherall.com](http://www.weatherall.com))

Wait approximately 8-10 weeks or until TimberTech has completed its weathering process before painting or staining. Clean your TimberTech decking surface prior to applying paint or stain. Never paint or stain over surfaces that may contain dirt, or mildew.

Best results will be obtained when using a high-quality paint or solid color stain. Be sure paint or stain does not clog drain holes in the TimberTech Floorizon Planks. Once TimberTech is painted, stained or sealed, subsequent applications will be necessary to maintain appearance. TimberTech cannot be responsible for the performance of stains or paints applied to any TimberTech Engineered Decking Systems product. Always apply paints and sealers in accordance with the manufacturer's application instructions.