

Like all parts of your home, the exterior has various maintenance and care requirements. Though your ProDek decking will not need staining, sealing or painting, routine cleaning is necessary to maintain its beauty. Sweep and wash regularly to reduce buildup of dirt, mud or grease caused by normal use.

Tannin or Water (stains which may occur during or shortly after installation): Use deck cleaning products such as Olympic Deck Brightener, Dekswood or Behr 63 containing oxalic acid.

Mix according to directions on cleaner. For tougher stains use more cleaner concentrate. Brush, spray or pour mixture onto deck. Brush with plastic bristled brush and let set for 15 to 20 minutes while keeping the deck moist with solution. Wash the solution off with water. Some tannin stains will still be slightly visible when deck is wet but should disappear when deck dries. This should always be done after installation of your ProDek decking and handrail. For handrail cleaning, mix cleaning solution in a pump sprayer and spray on the handrail.

Mold & Mildew (stains which may occur two months or longer after installation): Since mold and mildew are naturally occurring in the environment, we cannot guarantee that mold and mildew will not grow on your deck. Mold and mildew is a form of plant life spread by spores that can settle onto any surface where moisture, pollen, dirt and debris collect. Air currents, insects, animals and water easily transport spores. Due to mold and mildew's adaptability and the large number of species that exist, they are very hard to control and impossible to totally eliminate. Periodic cleaning of your deck with a mold and mildew cleaner, even if it "appears" clean, is important in order to prevent the build-up of pollen, dirt and environmental debris. Regular periodic cleaning can help prevent the reoccurrence of mold and mildew. Products used to clean mold and mildew may lighten the deck surface.

Periodic cleaning with cleaning solution and a pressure washer works well; however, **extreme pressures above 1300 PSI should be avoided and spray jets should be maintained 8-10" from the deck surface** for best results. If using bleach, care should be exercised to clean consistently and evenly so as to not streak your deck. It is important that any cleaning procedure fully remove the web-like "legs" of the mold and mildew colonies, penetrate the water-repellent outer surface, and remove the food source. There are specially formulated "composite deck cleaners" available that can be used either with a power washer or by brushing it on the deck and hosing it off. Always follow label instructions.

Some suggested cleaners:

1. **Outdoor bleach:** Use as directed on bottle, apply with a sprayer on an overcast day. Let the bleach sit for about 15 minutes, then rinse with water. you can use a stronger solution if mold and mildew is heavy.
2. **Tri-sodium Phosphate:** A strong base material that can be used alone or in combination with outdoor bleach. Caution should be exercised to prevent eye contact.
3. **Expert Chemical Composite Deck Cleaner:** Mildly alkaline heavy duty cleaner.
4. **Olympic Deck Cleaner for Mold & Mildew:** Follow cleaning instructions as outlined above for oxalic acid solution.

Grease Stains: For grease stains, use a good degreaser such as Zep Citrus or Greased Lightning. Spray degreaser liberally on affected area then scrub spot with a plastic bristled brush. Let sit for 5 minutes or so and wash off with water. After cleaning with the degreaser, clean the entire deck with a good deck cleaner.

Always spray water on plants and shrubs around deck before and after cleaning.

Arndt & Herman's warranty states under Exclusions: There are certain conditions or applications over which Arndt & Herman Building Products has no control. The Arndt & Herman Building Products ProDek™ Composite Decking does not cover defects or problems as a result of such conditions or applications. What is not covered: Damage caused by improper installation, use, applications or maintenance; damage caused by environmental conditions or use that exceeds design standards; damage caused by accidents, Acts of God, abuse, vandalism or any other external forces; normal weathering, chalking, fading, atmospheric pollutants or mildew buildup; installation or labor costs.