



The Sustainable Alternative

## Care & Maintenance for Xtreme Guard®

### Preamble

A great feature of wood composite products is that you can have a great performing deck without the need for staining, oiling, or painting etc, and the deck will continue to last without rotting, cracking or splinters. However, composite products will only look their best if given some degree of care. The amount of care/attention required on your deck will most likely be directly proportional to the local environment of the deck. An area surrounded by heavy foliage or prone to lots of dust will of course require more attention than a very open area without trees etc.

### General Cleaning

A simple sweep of the deck area will generally prevent build-up of dirt and grime (or even leaves) that could lead to unwanted marks, stains, and mould. Gaps between the boards should also be cleared of debris should this occur. As with timber, the longer your deck is dirty, the more work it will take to get it clean again. Avoid using very stiff brushes, as they may cause scratches.

*In all circumstances you must follow instructions as stated on packaging; a wash with something like "sugar soap" or "Sard Wonder soap" liquid solution will generally remove most dirt and grime.*

We have found that Aqualis Composite Bright is a good product for general cleaning. **NEVER** use acetone or other solvents on Xtreme Guard®.

For oil-based stains such as BBQ fat or sunscreen lotion, a wash using warm soapy water and a soft bristle brush to remove spills from embossing pattern within 72 hours of the spill works very well.

ModWood is relatively maintenance free but regular sweeping and periodical cleaning is important in keeping any outdoor area looking great. **See note below about use of high pressure cleaners on Xtreme Guard only.**

**Pot Plants:** It is advisable that they do not sit directly on the deck boards; raise them as you may get stain marks from overflow. You can keep the area clean by using warm soapy water. Occasionally you may need to move the pots around to minimise any shadow marks.

## Water Marks

Water stain marks can show on ModWood boards which will generally disappear with exposure to a reasonable soaking of rain and general weathering; they can be cleaned fairly quickly with water diluted Aqualis Composite Bright:

- Water stains from water pooling or dripping can happen on ModWood just like it can with many other materials/surfaces such as timber flooring, glass, stone bench tops, laminated tables etc. The visibility of the stain will be governed by factors such as how dirty the deck is and how quickly the water dries from the water pooling, clean as mentioned above.

A wash with Aqualis Composite Bright often assists in eliminating such marks.

## High Pressure Cleaner usage on Xtreme Guard decking boards ONLY

If proposing to use a High Pressure (HP) cleaner on your Xtreme Guard decking boards, you must exercise extreme caution. Initially trial the HP cleaner on a test area located on an inconspicuous part of your deck to ensure you're not causing any damage to the board surface before tackling the rest of the deck.

As HP cleaners can be extremely powerful ensure you use one that has a PSI rating no greater than 1,000 PSI to avoid any damage to the boards. The wand spray should be set on a wide fan spray. Keep the spray wand at least 300 mm from the board surface and maintain the spray at an even distance to avoid applying any damaging pressure. Use of a yard broom whilst pressure cleaning will give you the best results, in conjunction with warm soapy water.

If any damage to the boards becomes evident whilst using a HP cleaner the operator must cease use of the cleaner immediately and make contact with ModWood directly for further information or direction on 03 9357 8866.

## Scratches

Depending on how deep and how extensive scratching has occurred it is possible in most instances to 'repair' by using a heat gun/hair dryer and blow the hot air over the marks. This will cause the synthetic skin to melt and disguise/mask the scratch gouges. Make sure you sweep the hot air over the area and not focus the heat on one particular area for periods of time otherwise you will create bald patches as you will lose the embossing pattern on the board surface. If possible, practise technique on an off cut or in a discreet area of the deck before proceeding.

It is strongly recommended that all furniture on a ModWood deck has protective feet e.g. rubber stoppers applied to the legs to help prevent scuffing or scratching of the deck surface. **Note, ModWood is a 'finished' product. Be careful!** Protect the deck with a tarpaulin or cover in high traffic areas to avoid stones and scratches if general construction is still underway.

## Graffiti Paint Removal

Trials have shown that it is possible to remove graffiti paint with application of Aqualis Strip-Ease. *Refer to the packaging for directions and usages.*

## Chalk Lines

It is best to avoid coloured chalks that are used in construction as most coloured chalks are permanent! Best alternative is white chalk (Irwin Strait-Line Dust Off) or baby powder:

- Test on a small off cut if unsure to confirm that you can clean chalk off successfully.
- contact the chalk manufacturer before use should you require further information.

## **Mould**

Mould colonies can develop on any outdoor area; this is generally due to airborne spores landing in an environment that promotes mould growth. A slower working, long term and environmentally friendly solution is applying a product such as “Wet and Forget”. This works well but takes several months to take full effect.

A "quick fix" for this natural occurrence is the use of Aqualis Composite Bright and then use Aqualis No Fungal Pro (both products must be used). NOTE: *In all circumstances, refer to the packaging for directions and usages.*

## **Caution about Heat and Fire**

Heat from fire and reflection of sunlight from energy efficient windows can potentially damage board surface. Low-emissivity (Low-E) glass can cause highly elevated heat build-up on decking.

Contact the Low-E glass supplier for a solution.