



Prep your deck

How to prep for, and apply, Fortress decking stain



PREPARATION



New wood should be allowed to weather for at least 6 months to allow for new stain to fully adhere.



Untreated softwood should be given a coat of clear decking preserver. Any preserver should be wax-free and if it contains solvents, it should be allowed to fully cure before decking stain is applied.



Ensure the decking is thoroughly clean by using a stiff brush and hose, or, alternatively, a pressure washer.



Treat any lichen, moss, algae or mildew with a suitable fungicidal treatment.



Remove all previous paint, oil or varnish. For best results use a paint or varnish stripper or remove by sanding. For old stained surfaces they should be thoroughly cleaned using a wire brush made of brass.



Allow to completely dry before staining. To check the deck is dry drip a few drops of water onto the deck - if it soaks in, the wood is dry enough to paint. If the water rests on the surface, then it should be left to dry out for longer.



Stain should be tested in a small area of decking prior to application as different wood types can influence the final color of the stain.



APPLICATION



Stir well before and during use.



Apply the stain evenly working well into the timber along the grain of the wood. Start at the furthest corner applying in long smooth strokes; distributing it evenly along the boards. Avoid puddles and treat 3-4 boards at a time to avoid overlap marks.



Do not apply in damp or cold conditions below 10C or when rain is imminent.



Avoid applying the stain in direct sunlight, midday heat or when the temperature exceeds 30C.



Touch-dry in 1-2 hours depending on the surface. Allow the paint to dry for at least 4 hours before applying the second coat (a minimum of two coats of stain are recommended for best weather protection).



To maintain the decking apply one additional coat every 2-3 years.