



DECKING CARE

ROUTINE CARE | CLEANING | RE-FINISHING

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Touch-Up Finishing

After installation, you may need to touch up a few areas:

Preparation:

- Lightly sand, only if needed
- Clean the area(s) with:
 - 3 parts water / 1 part bleach / small amount dish soap
- Scrub with a medium-firm brush or push broom, rinse thoroughly with a hose, let the wood dry completely (never apply finish to wet boards)

Apply finish:

- Use Messmer's UV PLUS for Hardwoods (Natural)
- Apply with brush, roller, or pad
- Keep it light—do not over apply, wipe off any excess
- Let dry fully

Caring for your deck over time

After installation, you have two options— Let the deck naturally weather to a silver color (no re-coating needed), or maintain a finished look with additional coats as needed. Keep in mind:

- Finish will fade over time
- Weathering may be uneven at first—this is normal

The best thing you can do for a long lasting, great looking deck is keep it clean. Keeping it clean makes future refinishing much easier and more effective.

- Sweep regularly to remove debris
- Rinse with a hose as needed
- Occasionally scrub with a medium-stiff brush
- Use a mild cleaning solution if dirt or mildew builds up

Cleaning Tips

There are many products available—cleaners, brighteners, and strippers—and each serves a different purpose. Choose based on your deck's condition, and when in doubt, check with your lumber dealer or contractor, or contact Blue Star.

Most cleaning products work best when:

- Left on the surface for 10–20 minutes
- Scrubbed during that time

A pressure washer can help—but only if used correctly. Use for rinsing, not cleaning, as high pressure can damage wood fibers. If you use one:

- Keep pressure under 500 psi
- Use a 40–60° nozzle
- Stay about 1 foot from the surface
- Use a gentle sweeping motion
- Always test a small area first

Re-Coating

Most finishes protect for 12–24 months, but color may fade sooner. To know when to re-coat, use this simple test:

- If water beads up → finish is still working
- If water soaks in → time to re-coat
- Avoid applying over heavy existing finish, let old coatings wear down naturally

Cleaning Before Re-Coating

1. Sweep or blow off debris
2. Rinse with hose
3. Apply cleaning solution (garden sprayer works well). Use a cleaning solution of 3 parts water / 1 part bleach / squirt of dish soap
4. Let sit 10–20 minutes (keep surface wet)
5. Scrub with a medium-stiff brush
6. Rinse thoroughly
7. Let dry at least 48 hours

If You Need More Cleaning Power use: 2 oz 100% powdered tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) dissolved in 3 quarts water + 1 quart bleach.

Note: *TSP can lighten the wood color if not diluted. Most commercial deck cleaners contain TSP. TSP is available for purchase at most lumber yards and hardware stores.*

If the above methods are insufficient, you can also use a deck brightener or stripper—follow product instructions carefully.

Applying a New Coat of Finish

48 hours after the deck is clean and dry, you're ready to go.

- Use Messmer's UV PLUS for Hardwoods (Natural)
- Apply with brush, roller, or pad
- Only recoat top and exposed ends of boards, no need to recoat bottom, sides, or enclosed ends
- Keep it light—do not over apply. One gallon covers up to ~350 sq. ft.
- Wipe off any excess
- Let dry fully before use

Bottom Line

Keep it clean, apply finish as needed, and avoid overworking the surface.

A little care goes a long way in keeping your deck looking great for years.