



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.