
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Product Expectations



Warranty

Naturally Durable Wood Decking Products like tropical hardwood and thermally modified decking and cladding products typically have warranties in the 15-25 year range against rot in above ground applications. See specific species or product warranties for details.

Health and Safety

Because naturally durable decking and cladding products are 100% organic and do not contain chemical treatments to provide their durability, these products do not create any risk to humans, animals or the environment during handling or use.

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Heat Retention

Naturally durable wood products are on average 20% cooler to the touch than most synthetic materials like PVC or Plastic Composite base products increasing safety in use.

Environmental Impact

Naturally Durable Wood Products have the lowest life cycle environmental impact of all building materials being the worlds most sustainable resource, trapping and storing carbon throughout their service life.

Fasteners

Stainless Steel fasteners are recommended if fastener service life is intended to extend as long as the life of naturally durable wood products.

Fading

Naturally Durable Wood Products will fade to a silver-gray patina in exterior applications with any UV exposure. This is the lowest maintenance approach to exterior wood use. The amount of time it takes for wood to grey can vary from a few weeks to several months depending on exposure.

You can maintain the natural color of wood by applying a UV-inhibiting hardwood oil regularly as needed. See our Best practices guide for more details. Mold grows on anything, even glass. Regular cleaning as needed is recommended, followed by a thin coat of oil if maintaining its natural color is desired. Never over apply oil. Wipe on wipe off just like polishing furniture. Even after fading, wood can always be restored to its natural color using a wood brightener after cleaning followed by a coat of oil.

Movement

Although Kiln Dried or Thermally Modified wood has less movement than chemically treated wood, naturally durable wood products may shrink or swell slightly depending on the equilibrium moisture of the environment in which they

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are being applied. There will always be some minimal movement as environmental conditions change. Temperature and moisture effect all building materials in service, especially outdoors.

If you keep Naturally Durable Wood Products covered and dry prior to installation and properly fasten it to the surface to which it is being applied, it will greatly decrease the chances or amount of movement in service. Refer to our Best Practices Guide for more details.

Surface Checking, End Checking and Splitting

As real wood products, Naturally Durable Wood products will experience surface and end checking as part of the normal process of weathering. Kiln Dried or Thermally Modified Naturally Durable Wood Products will however check much less than chemically treated wood products. Surface checking can be reduced by application of a first coat of oil sealer which slows the acclimation process, even if you intend to let the wood weather naturally. End sealer application after cutting will help reduce end checking. Checking is however part of the natural characteristics and beauty of wood when used in exterior applications. Checking does not affect durability or the structural performance of wood in application. Wood splitting is usually the result of tension on wood grain caused by fastening through the face of a board. It is typically more pronounced at the board ends. Pre-drilling and counter sinking when face fastening as well as setting screws farther back from the ends of the boards will reduce splitting. It is also important not to over torque screws during installation. Impact drills should never be used when installing decks.

Scuffs & Scratches

Like all decking products, Naturally Durable Wood Products can become scratched or scuffed through everyday use. These marks are most evident on brand new wood, and become less noticeable as the surface naturally weathers.

A simple way to remedy small surface scratches is light sanding with a fine grit sand paper. Sanding may expose new wood fiber that appears as a discoloration. If the wood is oiled, simply apply some new oil like furniture polish. If the wood around it is weathered, rest assured that once exposed to UV it will weather grey to match the surrounding wood fiber. That is the beauty of wood. Unlike PVC or Plastics Composites, wood can always be restored.

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Metal Framing & Surfaces

Naturally Durable Wood Products can be fastened to or be in contact with aluminum, enameled, powder-coated or foiled fixtures.

Stains & Cleaning

All decking products can be stained by certain foods, drinks and chemicals. Be cautious when eating or drinking and avoid using sunscreen or anything in an aerosol can while on any deck. Clean up any spills as quickly as possible as anything with sugars in it will promote mold growth.

Metal particles from old shingles, grinding metal rails, drainage or runoff from galvanized, zinc, copper, iron based fixtures and low grade steel fasteners may react with the natural tannins found in wood and create black spots or stains. These can typically be removed by using oxalic acid based wood brighteners.

You should periodically clean your deck to remove dirt, leaves, pollen and other organic debris. This will reduce stains as well as mold and mildew from forming on the surface. Soap and water or deck cleaner can remove most stains. In some cases wood brightener or light sanding may be required.