



RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE
for
THE TREATMENT OF NEW HARDWOOD DECKING TIMBERS

Many hardwood timbers being sold today for the construction of Decks etc, even though kiln dried, may not necessarily be suitable for oiling. Therefore, to avoid complications we suggest the following points be addressed prior to the application of oil.

NOTE:

New timber should not be left to weather. Once exposed to the elements for even a few weeks without protection in some cases, timber will develop cracks, checks (small surface cracks) as well as lose colour. The application all round of either 1 coat of Organoil's Woodguard or 1 coat of Decking Oil is highly recommended.

"THE ALTERNATE WETTING & DRYING OF THE TIMBER SURFACE IS NOT RECOMMENDED AS IT WILL CAUSE CHECKING, THE GRAIN WILL BECOME RAISED AND THE SURFACE EVEN IF INITIALLY SMOOTH WILL BECOME ROUGHENED."
(ref: Wood in Australia by Keith R. Bootle)

1. The moisture content of timber is extremely important for an oil to penetrate and cure. 10-12% is the Industry recommendation for stable timber. Many timbers supplied today are kiln dried to only 18%. Should the moisture content be **above** 12%, the oil could remain at the surface, becoming tacky, whiten or simply wash off.

ADVICE : Wash all timber surfaces - either prior to construction or after, using an Alkaline salt cleaner such as Organoil's Wash-a-Way. This will assist in drying the moisture at the timber surface, allowing the oil to penetrate and cure. After washing, rinse and leave for 2-3 days (in good drying conditions) prior to the application of oil.

2. "Mill Glaze" is a wax like coating at the timber surface. It occurs if the timber is milled while wet. The heat and friction from the cutting blades harden the natural resins and gum. The presence of "mill glaze" will prevent oil from penetrating and drying therefore causing it to go tacky and possibly even wash off.

ADVICE: Test timber for water absorbance by splashing water onto the timber surface. If the water "beads", the timber will need to be sanded to remove the Mill Glaze, then washed with an Alkaline salt cleaner prior to oiling (as described in 1.)

3. Most imported Malaysian / Indonesian / New Guinea Hardwood Timbers such as Merbau, Kwila, Kapur, Belian, Balau and Kempas – as well as some Australian Eucalypt timbers such as Spotted Gum and Blackbutt to name a few, have a high tannin content. This becomes a problem when the timber is exposed to moisture. The tannin will leech out, causing staining on the timber, as well as any surrounding surfaces such as concrete, painted surfaces and tiles etc.

Timber which has a relatively high tannin content is also prone to discolouration with black stains when it comes in contact with iron compounds such as iron filings, ferrous nails & screws. Cement dust and soil high in iron can also leave black spots if particles fall on these timbers when wet. Tannin stain is not only unsightly, but can also clog the pore structure of the timber preventing oil from penetrating evenly, not only causing it to remain tacky but in some cases giving an overall dull and patchy appearance.

ADVICE: Wash all timber surfaces either prior to, or after construction using an Alkaline Salt Cleaner such as Organoil's Wash-a-Way, rinse then leave 2-3 days to dry (in good drying conditions) prior to oiling.

Timbers exhibiting any of the previously described conditions would benefit from one coat of **Organoil's Woodguard** OR one coat of a full bodied Decking Oil applied particularly in Autumn or Winter, when drying conditions are not always conducive, followed by a second coat in late spring. This will give the timber maximum use of UV protection through the following Summer/ Autumn.

Decking timbers will face the harshest conditions of any external timber construction, from moisture, rain, foot traffic and high UV (if fully exposed). To assist in avoiding premature weathering, loss of colour, checking, cracking, iron stains, tannin stains, tannin leach etc, it is important to seal timbers all round as soon as possible to maintain appearance, stability and preservation.

Organoil **Woodguard** has been developed as an interim wood preserver. The highly penetrative light plant oils combined with Bee's wax in this product, will assist in the reduction and minimising of premature weathering on new timbers by drying timbers high in natural tannins, sealing against the rapid loss or intake of moisture, and giving 3 months protection under full UV whilst allowing the timber to "season".

One application of Woodguard will take the place of one coat of Decking Oil, when applied in the Autumn / Winter period. It should then be followed by one application of Decking Oil in the late Spring so the maximum benefit of UV protection will be obtained throughout the summer months.

Note: Timber should always be washed using an Alkaline Salt Cleaner such as Wash-a-Way, prior to applying any oil or other preservative - Refer to our data sheet: "How to prepare / clean your timber decking, patio furniture and other external timbers for oiling".

**Organoil products are manufactured by Premium Hardware Pty Ltd
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