

REGALBOARD



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CLEANING AND CARE GUIDE

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1. Introduction

Eva-Last is proud to offer exceptionally low-maintenance alternatives to wood which last for years without the need for costly or time-consuming treatments, stains, or sealants. RegalBoard products are designed to be gentle on the Earth and give you a hassle-free decking option for your home or commercial space. This cleaning and care guide provides all the information you need to preserve the structural integrity and natural-looking beauty of your RegalBoard boards. Please review the RegalBoard warranty and read and follow these instructions completely for warranty compliance purposes and to ensure that you enjoy your RegalBoard decking or outdoor space to the fullest.

1.1 Product Composition

The following table provides a simplified material composition for RegalBoard material technology. For more detailed information regarding the composition, safety, and handling of the material, please refer to the RegalBoard MSDS. Understanding the material composition is crucial for determining the compatibility of the cap material with various substances, not only for cleaning purposes but also for exposure to natural elements such as tree sap and plant secretions. To confirm which substances are compatible or incompatible with the product, please refer to the Section 3.0 Chemical compatibility section, which provides a reduced material compatibility chart. Please see the TDS for the expanded compatibility

Component	Substance	Mass (%)
Cap	Polyurethane (PU)	3%
Core	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	48%
	Calcium carbonate	28%
Additional additives	Other	21%

2. Critical care points

2.1 Safety first

Always wear protective gear when handling cleaning chemicals and ensure proper ventilation. Follow all safety instructions provided by the cleaner manufacturer. Avoid mixing chemicals..

2.2 Pre-Installation Decisions

Decisions made before installing a deck can significantly impact its maintenance, cleaning requirements, and warranty. This summary provides key points to consider, ensuring the longevity and appearance of the deck while minimizing potential issues. Although this document is generally used after installation, we aim to provide insights that can make using and maintaining your deck easier and more enjoyable.

- Check the warranty requirements**, regular cleaning, proper installation, unexpected environmental conditions and use outside of the scope of the product, may affect the warranty of the deck.
- Durability:** Ensure all parts of the system meet the durability requirements of the deck. Use fasteners and hardware appropriate to the environment and strength requirements to avoid structural issues. The deck system is only as durable as their weakest component.
- Install the deck last:**
 - Whenever possible, install your deck as the last step in the construction process to avoid damage. Complete all masonry, painting, and other work involving fine dust, PVC glues, adhesives, and paints before installing the deck to prevent staining or discoloration.
 - If not feasible, cover the deck with a tarp or construction-grade plastic to protect it.
- Proper installation can assist in simplifying cleaning and maintenance.**
 - Support the deck boards with appropriate joist spans to prevent sagging.
 - Areas that are continually wetted, are prone to algae and mould growth, ensure that drains direct water away from the top of the deck, to prevent constantly wet areas that may grow
 - Avoid allowing high mineral content water from pooling on the deck for extended periods to prevent white residue buildup.
- Consider colour and grain patterns:**
 - Be aware that dust on darker colours may be more noticeable, and deeper grain embossing and similar finishes are harder to clean due to dirt penetrating deeper into the grooves. This may affect the frequency and ease of cleaning your deck.

6. Excessive and unusual heat sources

- Eva-Last products are designed for typical exterior installations. Damage from excessive heat is excluded from warranty coverage.
- Eva-Last products are designed for typical exterior installations but are not covered under warranty for damage caused by excessive heat, including as a result of concentrated sunlight reflected from Low-E glass or other reflective surfaces, which can damage the product's surface, cause immoderate movement, and affect its flexural properties both in the short and long term. If the intended site could result in such exposure, consult the Low-E glass manufacturer for solutions to reduce the reflection/concentration from such surfaces and resultant impacts before installation. Consider using screens, glass treatments/layers, or obstructions, such as vegetation, to block/diffuse sunlight (before and/or after reflection) to help mitigate impact of such scenarios.
- Firepits and fire features may emit heat that can damage the boards or post a fire risk, while Smoke and soot may discolour composite from excessive exposure. Design the composite application to mitigate against this risk.

7. **Incompatible materials** - Avoid contact between deck surfaces and materials that may negatively affect the product—such as those containing plasticisers, including soft plastics, rubbers, foams, and synthetic composites. This includes, but is not limited to, items like garden hoses, rubber mats, plastic tarps, inflatable products, and protective coverings. These materials may cause staining, discolouration, or surface degradation. Consult the product's Technical Data Sheet (TDS) and relevant chemical compatibility data to assess potential risks. Users are responsible for confirming material suitability under actual use conditions.

2.3 Preventative measures

Implementing preventative measures can greatly enhance the longevity and appearance of your deck.

1. Protect against scratches abrasive materials

- Furniture: Fix pads under outdoor furniture, like chairs and umbrella stands, to stop the constant dragging.
- Movement: Do not drag furniture or other heavy objects across the deck to avoid premature wearing.
- Footwear: In the case of high traffic areas, where Hard-soled safety boots, which often have additional slip-resistant features, can cause significant abrasion to the deck's surface, leading to accelerated wear and tear.
- Excessive wearing may affect the slip resistance of the deck.

2. Protect against staining and damage.

- Clean the deck immediately when something is spilled on it.
- Use protective mats under grease and heat sources like grills and fire pits but remove them when not in use to prevent moisture buildup. Ensure that the mat used is suitable for use with Regalboard cap materials
- Do not mix pool chemicals or fertilisers on the deck or use protective mats when there is no other option.
- **Note – The Warranty does not cover staining or fading on the uncapped, ends or underside of boards.**

3. Prevent Differential Weathering:

- Periodically move or remove furniture, flowerpots, plants, planters, and other deck accessories to avoid differential weathering.
- Lift do not drag, rugs, mats, or other movable accessories to prevent abrasive dirt or debris from scratching the deck surface.
- Dark rubber mats may cause excessive heat build-up, and trap moisture, causing damage to the surface of the deck.

4. Prevent Mold, mildew and mineral deposits:

- Ensure proper drainage by redirecting drains away from the deck.
- Avoid allowing water to pool on the deck for extended periods.
- Prevent high mineral content water from pooling on the deck to avoid white residue.
- The boards are resistant to mould growth, but mould can form on dirt, debris, or leaves trapped on the surface and must be promptly removed.

2.4 Making Cleaner Choices

Choosing the right cleaning products and methods is essential to maintaining the integrity and appearance of your deck. The following guidelines provide recommendations for routine cleaning, testing new cleaning solutions, and ensuring chemical compatibility to protect your deck from damage.

1. Routine Cleaning:

- Acceptable cleaning solutions include detergents, dishwashing acids, and alkalis. Recommended cleaners are:
 1. Formula 409 All-Purpose Cleaner
 2. Frosch Wood Cleaner

2. Test Cleaning Solutions:

- Test a small patch of decking or a scrap piece of material with any new cleaner to ensure it will not damage the cap before extended use.

3. Chemical Compatibility:

- Strong detergents, high concentration alcohol (>75%), industrial strength cleaners, oxidizers, and certain chemical solvents like esters, ketones, and benzene are not compatible with the deck cap.

- Avoid undiluted chemicals and chlorine and refer to the Chemical Compatibility Chart in the Technical Data Sheet (TDS) for a comprehensive list of incompatible materials.
- See the chemical compatibility chart in section 5.0

2.5 How to Clean

General Cleaning process

- **Step 1:** Make sure to take the withered leaf, grass, bulky debris, muds and etc away from your deck, then apply soapy water to your deck with a sponge.
- **Step 2:** Sweep the liquid over your deck using the hard-bristled broom, making sure to remove all dirt and residue from the gaps between the decking boards. Sweeping in the direction of the grain is best.
- **Step 3:** If residue and/or dirt are still evident on your deck, a high-pressure hose is very effective in removing stubborn and unavoidable organic waste.

Pressure Washing:

For best results, high-pressure hose your deck whilst simultaneously brushing it with a hard-bristled broom and soapy water.

- Use a high-pressure hose with a 65° fan tip at pressures under 100 Bar (1500 SPI).
- Keep the hose at least 300 to 400mm (12 to 16") away from the surface when spraying.
- If any change in the cap occurs, stop immediately. Refer to the section on Pressure Washing for more details.

IMPORTANT - Please exercise caution as pressure washing can damage your deck if done incorrectly. When using the specialized RegalBoard screws that are hidden beneath the cap of the board, consider the soft nature of the cap and pay special attention to the screw positions, as the pressure washer may enlarge the screw holes and affect the invisible effect. If you notice any changes to the surface of your deck, stop immediately.

3. Health & Safety

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Wear PPE:** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves, safety goggles, and suitable clothing, to protect yourself from injuries and chemical exposure.
- **Handling Chemicals:** Wear protective gloves and safety goggles. Ensure adequate ventilation and avoid mixing chemicals, as certain combinations (like ammonia and chlorine) can produce harmful reactions.
- **Working at Heights:** Use appropriate fall protection equipment when working at heights. Ensure ladders are stable and secure before use.

Safety

- RegalBoard is made from PVC and when set on fire may emit toxic fumes.
- Follow all standard safety requirements to prevent the composite material from contributing to the spread of fire.

Handling Chemicals

- **Follow Directions:** Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the cleaner's label to ensure proper usage and minimize the risk of harm or burns.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation when using chemicals to avoid inhaling fumes.
- **Avoid Mixing different Chemicals and cleaners:** Do not mix cleaning chemicals, as this can create harmful reactions.

Cleaning the Deck

- **Slip Resistance:** Wet and soapy decks will be more slippery than dry ones. Exercise more caution while the deck is drying.
 - **Ice and snow:** Surface slip resistance will be reduced with ice, snow or similar, and care should be taken.
- **Proper Rinsing:** Ensure all soap residues are thoroughly rinsed off, as any remaining soap can make the deck more slippery when it gets wet again.

By adhering to these safety considerations, you can maintain a safe environment while effectively cleaning and maintaining your composite decking.

4. Chemical Compatibility

When maintaining and cleaning your deck, it is important to be aware of materials that may cause damage. Strong detergents, high concentration alcohols (above 75%), strong acids or alkali detergents, oxidizers, and certain chemical solvents like esters, ketones, benzene, and undiluted chlorine can be particularly harmful. These substances are not compatible with the protective cap on RegalBoard decking boards. To ensure the longevity and appearance of your deck, it is crucial to prevent these materials from contacting the surface.

Below is an extensive (though not complete) list of common substances and solutions known to negatively influence the polyurethane surface of RegalBoard. It is important to check material compatibility when choosing chemicals that the product may encounter, as they may prematurely degrade the product. These may include ingredients in cleaning products, pool additives, and even oils and saps from local vegetation.

NB- Always perform a patch test using any chemicals on a small, inconspicuous area of the deck, or a deck sample before proceeding with full application.

Chemical Interaction Impact Checklist

Chemical Component	Common Name	Found in
Strong acids and bases		
Sulfuric Acid*	Battery acid	Battery acid, fertilizer production, drain cleaners
Ammonia, Anhydrous	Ammonia	Cleaning agents, fertilizers, refrigeration systems
Ammonium Hydroxide	Ammonia solution	Cleaning agents, water treatment, food processing
Calcium Hypochlorite	Bleaching powder	Bleach, water treatment, disinfectants
Hydrochloric Acid 37%	Muriatic acid	Cleaning agents, metal refining, food processing
Nitric Acid 10%	Aqua Fortis	Fertilizers, explosives, metal treatment
Solvents and alcohols		
Alcohol >75%*	Ethanol	Disinfectants, Hand sanitizers, cleaning agents
2-Butanone*	Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK)	Industrial solvent, Solvent, paint removers, coatings, adhesives
Acetone*	Acetone	Nail polish remover, solvents, cleaning agents, paint thinners
Aromatic Solvents*	Aromatic hydrocarbons	Paint, varnishes, adhesives, chemical intermediates
Benzene*	Benzene	Fuel, industrial chemicals, plastics, resins
Butyl Acetate*	Butyl Acetate	Lacquers, paints, coatings, adhesives
Butyl Aldehyde*	Butyraldehyde	Flavouring agent, fragrances, solvents, plastics
Ethyl Alcohol*	Ethyl Alcohol	Hand sanitizer, disinfectants, alcoholic beverages, fuel
Toluene*	Toluene	Paint thinner, adhesives, chemical intermediates, fuels
Xylene*	Xylene	Paint thinner, cleaning agents, solvents, rubber
Ethyl Acetate	Ethyl Acetate	Paint thinner, coatings, adhesives, cosmetics
Methyl Alcohol	Methanol	Antifreeze, solvents, fuel, formaldehyde production
Tetrahydrofuran	THF	Solvent, adhesives, coatings, pharmaceuticals
Trichloroethylene	Trichloroethylene	Dry cleaning solvent, degreasing agent, refrigerant
Turpentine	Turpentine	Paint thinner, solvent, medicinal uses, adhesives
Fuels and oils		
Kerosene*	Kerosene/Paraffin	Fuel, jet engines, heating, lamps
ASTM Fuel C	Test fuel	Fuel, testing purposes, calibration standards
ASTM Oil #4	Heavy fuel oil	Fuel, lubrication, hydraulic fluids
Chlorinated compounds		
Calcium Chloride	De-icer/Ice melt	De-icing agent, concrete acceleration, dust control, brine solution, Desiccants

Chlorinated Solvents*	Chlorinated Solvents	Cleaning agents, degreasing, paint removers
Carbon Tetrachloride	Carbon TET	Fire extinguishers, refrigerants, solvents, pesticide production
Chlorine Gas	Chlorine Gas	Disinfectants, water treatment, bleach production
Freon 22	R-22, HCFC-22	Refrigerants, air conditioning systems, blowing agents
Perchloroethylene	PERC, Tetrachlorethylene	Dry cleaning solvent, degreasing, chemical intermediates
Other		
Formaldehyde	"Formaldehyde (gas)	
Formic Acid	Methanolic acid	Preservatives, leather production, cleaning agents
Phenol	Carbolic acid	Disinfectants, resins, pharmaceuticals, plastics
Stoddard's Solvent 140°F	Mineral spirits	Cleaning agents, paint thinners, degreasing agents

*These materials have been proven to affect the product cap. Other materials are provided from a consolidation of various chemical compatibility charts.

5. General Care & Maintenance

5.1 Typical tools

- **Appropriate Tools:** Always use tools that are appropriate for composite materials to avoid damage. Use non-abrasive, non-metal tools whenever possible.
 - Hard-bristle broom or brush
 - Soap and cleaner
 - High pressure hose with a 65° or greater fan tip
 - Sponge
 - PPE – Gloves, Masks, Harnesses when working at heights
- **Cleaning tools:** Use soft bristle brushes, non-metallic scrubbing pads, and soft sponges for cleaning. Avoid using metal brushes or harsh scouring pads that can scratch the surface.
- **Pressure washing:** Use a high-pressure hose with a fan tip at pressures under 100 Bar (1500 PSI). Remember to keep the hose at least 300mm (12") away from the surface when spraying.
- **Shovels for snow:** Use plastic shovels instead of metal ones to clear snow and ice, as metal shovels can scratch and damage the surface.
- **Sealants and applicators:** When applying sealants or protective coatings, to any deck components, use applicators recommended by the product manufacturer, such as foam brushes or soft rollers.
- **Masonry tools:** If conducting masonry work near the deck, cover the deck surface with a tarp or construction-grade plastic film to protect it from debris and potential damage.

5.2 Approved cleaning products

For routine cleaning solutions, detergents solutions, dish wash acids and alkalis are acceptable as cleaners. The following cleaners can be adopted for daily use:

- Formula 409 All-purpose cleaner
- Frosch Wood Cleaner

5.3 Specific Cleaning scenarios

Proper maintenance and cleaning of your deck are crucial to preserving its appearance and longevity. This guide outlines specific cleaning scenarios and provides detailed procedures to address common issues such as dirt and debris, oil stains, organic matter, ice, and more. By following these guidelines, you can ensure that your deck remains in top condition and continues to be a valuable addition to your outdoor space. Failure to clean or maintain the deck may void the warranty.

Cleaning scenario's	Procedures
Dirt & Debris	Regularly sweep your deck to prevent dirt buildup. Clean with soap and hot water or a pressure washer.
	Remove damp leaves promptly to prevent tannin stains. Use a broom or blower instead of a hose.
	Ensure proper drainage to avoid standing water and discoloration. Use a broom to clear debris between planks.
Oil, Grease & Food Stains* Clean within 7 days.	Clean stains promptly with warm, soapy water. If needed, use a composite deck cleaner without brightening agents.
	Check for chemical compatibility before using spot cleaners.
	Use a splash guard mat under grills to prevent grease stains but remove the mat when not in use.
Minor Scuffs	For minor scuffs in high traffic areas, use board-matching colour paint to re-coat the surface.
Organic Matter & Tannins	Remove debris from gaps with a garden hose or soft bristle broom to prevent tannins.
Ice & Snow	Use rock salt to melt ice and snow, then remove it.
	Do not use calcium chloride and metal shovels; use a plastic edge shovel only. Never use a metal shovel
	Surface slip resistance will be reduced with ice, snow or similar, and care should be taken.
Sanding & Brushing	Do not sand or brush the deck as it can damage the surface and void the warranty.
Bird Droppings	Remove bird droppings promptly using warm, soapy water and a sponge. For stubborn residues, use a high-pressure hose.
Pool Cleaning	Mix pool solutions away from the deck and clean spills immediately.
Tough Stains	For tough stains, use a stronger outdoor detergent, but start with soapy water.
Mineral Deposits	Clean mineral deposits with a vinegar-water solution or powdered laundry detergent, scrubbing with a hard brush in the direction of the grain. Where possible prevent hard water pooling on the deck.
Additional Tips	Avoid activities that can scratch the deck, like skateboarding or dragging heavy furniture. Use protective pads under outdoor furniture.
	While normal day-to-day activities will not scratch your RegalBoard decking, like timber or any other surface, excessive activities will damage the surface. For example, skateboarding or dragging heavy furniture may cause the exterior to scratch, abrade, or chip.

*The above conditions are normal maintenance and are therefore not covered by the RegalBoard limited warranty.

5.4 Cladding, Screens, and Fencing

- Follow the same cleaning processes as decking.
- When working at heights ensure that you wear appropriate safety harnesses and equipment.
- Pressure cleaners may be easier to use to reach higher places to clean for vertical surfaces. Follow the same guidelines as pressure cleaning decking.
- Install bird spikes or other deterrents in areas where birds are likely to nest to prevent droppings and nesting materials from accumulating, above the cladding or screen.
- Use ventilated strips or similar solutions to prevent pests from getting behind cladding and screens, helping to avoid the mess and potential damage caused by pests.
- Ensure proper drainage to prevent water accumulation, which can cause discoloration or damage.
- For heat sources and fire, keep cladding and screens at a safe distance to avoid damage from heat retention or direct exposure. Fires can rise more easily up vertical walls, so it is crucial to follow all standard safety requirements to prevent the cladding from contributing to the spread of fire. Smoke or soot might discolour the boards.
- Cladding installed close to the ground may experience splash back from rain, causing mud to fly up. Follow regional requirements for ground clearance of cladding and be prepared to clean fencing or railing more often where they are installed close to exposed ground. Installing grass, edging, or a wider foundation can help prevent mud splash back.

6. Additional considerations

6.1 Commercial applications

- In commercial areas with high foot traffic, as well as hard-soled safety boots which are often equipped with additional slip-resistant features, can cause significant abrasion to the deck's surface, leading to accelerated wear and tear. Ensure that the deck is appropriately specified for commercial use and plan for regular maintenance and timely replacement.
- Ensure that cleaning and maintenance personnel (or a suitable supervisor) are fully informed about the chemical compatibility requirements, cleaning procedures, and correct tools, and have been provided with or educated on this document.
- Avoid using industrial-strength cleaners to prevent damage to the deck material and ensure chemical compatibility with any chemicals used.

6.2 Static Electricity

- **Minimize buildup:** Composite decking can accumulate static electricity.
 - **Grounding solutions:** Implement grounding solutions such as grounding or earthing straps or conductive tape. These can be applied to the decking or connected to a grounding rod to help dissipate static charges.
 - **Regular cleaning:** Keep the decking clean from dust and debris, as these can contribute to static electricity. Use a damp mop or cloth to wipe down the surface regularly.

6.3 Under-Deck Waterproofing System

- **Proper installation:** It is crucial to ensure that any under-deck waterproofing system is installed correctly to prevent water accumulation that could damage the decking structure. Proper installation involves:
 - **Following manufacturer guidelines:** Adhere strictly to the manufacturer's instructions for installation to ensure the system works as intended.
 - **Professional installation:** Consider hiring a professional to install the system, especially if you are not experienced with waterproofing installations. This can help avoid common pitfalls and ensure a high-quality installation.
 - **Sealant application:** Use high-quality sealants around all joints and seams to prevent water from seeping through.
 - **Slope for drainage:** Ensure the system is installed with a slight slope to facilitate proper drainage of water away from the deck and its supporting structure.

6.4 Ladder Usage Tips

- **Protect the deck:** When using a ladder on the deck, place a protective barrier between the ladder and the decking to prevent scratches or dents.
- **Stable positioning:** Ensure the ladder is stable and placed on a flat surface to avoid slipping or damaging the deck.

6.5 Pest control

- **Prevent infestation:** Regularly inspect the deck structure for signs of pests such as termites or ants, which can cause damage to timber structures. Alternatively use structures like steel. Ensure that any structures are appropriately specified for environmental conditions.
- **Use deterrents:** Apply appropriate pest control treatments to timber structures or deterrents to keep insects away from the deck.
- **Use pest barriers:** Perforated mesh used to cover gaps can be used to deter larger pests while still providing ventilation.

Do not block off ventilation to your deck or cladding system.

7. What to Avoid

- **Abrasive materials:** Avoid using abrasive materials such as steel wool, wire brushes, or sandpaper on composite decking, railing, fencing, and cladding. These can scratch and damage the surface.
- **Harsh chemicals:** Do not use harsh chemicals like bleach, acetone, or strong solvents, as they can discolour and deteriorate the material. Stick to mild dishwashing detergents and cleaners specifically designed for composite materials.
- **Metal shovels:** Never use hard-edged tools. Damage caused by metal shovels or impact from heavy tools is not covered under warranty.
- **Pressure washing mistakes:** Do not use high-pressure settings or narrow tips when pressure washing. Excessive pressure can damage the decking.
- **Leaving standing water:** Do not allow standing water to remain on the deck, as it can lead to discoloration and promote mould and mildew growth.
- **Improper installation and maintenance:** Avoid improper installation and neglecting regular maintenance. Always follow proper installation guidelines and perform regular inspections and maintenance.
- **Unsupported heavy furniture:** Avoid dragging heavy furniture across the deck surface. Use furniture pads or protective mats to prevent scratches and dents.
- **Ignoring manufacturer guidelines:** Do not ignore the manufacturer's recommendations for care and maintenance. Adhering to these guidelines ensures the longevity and appearance of your composite materials.
 - Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines regarding chemical compatibility and approved cleaning products.

Conclusion

Regular maintenance and proper cleaning are essential to preserving the beauty and functionality of your composite decking. By following the guidelines outlined in this comprehensive care guide, you can enjoy your outdoor space for many years. For any specific concerns or unusual issues, consult with a professional or refer to the manufacturer's recommendations.

8. Disclaimer and copyright

8.1 Document disclaimer

The provided information is offered in good faith as accurate but without guarantee. Eva-Last makes no warranties or representations of any kind (express or implied) about the accuracy, adequacy, currency, or completeness of the information, or that it is necessarily suitable for the intended use.

Compliance with this document does not guarantee immunity from breach of any statutory requirements, building codes or relevant standards. The final responsibility for the correct design and specification rests with the designer and, for its satisfactory execution, with the contractor. Appropriate warnings and safe handling procedures should be provided to handlers and users.

While most data have been compiled from research, case histories, experience and testing, small changes in the environment can produce marked differences in performance. The decision to use a material, and in what manner, is made at your own risk. The use of a material and method may therefore need to be modified to its intended end use and environment.

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All dimensions and specifications are offered in good faith as accurate but without guarantee. The information captured herein may not contain complete details. Eva-Last makes no warranties or representations of any kind (express or implied) about the accuracy, adequacy, currency, or completeness of the information, or that it is necessarily suitable for the intended use.

Compliance with this document does not guarantee immunity from breach of any statutory requirements, building codes or relevant standards. The final responsibility for the correct design and specification rests with the designer and, for its satisfactory execution, with the contractor.

8.3 Utilisation disclaimer

Legislation may differ between jurisdictions. Before installing any Eva-Last product, ensure that the application is rational and complies with the local regulations and building codes. Wherever necessary, consult a suitably qualified professional. Be sure to comply with material manufacturer specifications. Where manufacturers and building codes differ, revert to the building code requirements. Check that your choice of product is suitable for its intended application. For further product specification and information visit www.eva-last.com.

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Eva-Last periodically updates the information contained in this document as well as that of the Eva Last documents that have been referenced herein. Before using this document, please refer to the Eva-Last website (www.eva-last.com) for the most up-to-date documents.

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Appendix A

Basic Cleaning and Maintenance Schedule for Composite Decking

Basic Cleaning and Maintenance Schedule for Composite Decking

Maintaining your residential composite deck is essential to ensure its longevity and functionality. This appendix provides guidelines for creating an effective maintenance schedule to help you tailor your plan to your deck's unique needs. The following schedule represents typical minimum maintenance requirements, though these will vary depending on exposure to dirt, frequency of use, and environmental conditions.

For decks exposed to heavy dirt accumulation and frequent use, increase the frequency of cleaning and inspections, focusing on high-traffic areas and spots prone to dirt buildup. Monitor the deck more closely during extreme weather events, performing additional inspections and maintenance as needed to address any damage. To facilitate easier maintenance and enhance the durability of your deck, ensure all critical components, such as fasteners, structural supports, and drainage systems, are accessible for inspection and repair.

Darker-coloured decks and those with deeper embossing are more prone to showing dirt and may require more frequent cleaning. Additionally, dirt can be abrasive and may wear down your deck more quickly, making it more important that it be cleaned up regularly. Hard-soled safety boots and similar footwear can also have an abrasive impact on the deck's surface.

Adhering to the recommended maintenance schedule is crucial to maintaining your deck's warranty. Neglecting proper care can void the warranty and reduce the deck's lifespan. By following these guidelines and performing regular maintenance, you can ensure that your composite deck remains a beautiful and functional part of your home for years to come.

Please check the specific warranty requirements for specific cleaning deadlines or requirements.

Frequency	Task
Prevention	Ensure that the deck material is correctly specified for the application, occupation, and level of foot traffic, and that the slip resistance requirements are suitable for the intended use. This will make maintenance easier and prevent future disappointments or costly replacements.
	If possible, try and install your deck last in the construction process. If this is not possible, your deck should be properly always covered with a sheet of tarp or construction-grade plastic to avoid damaging the surface.
	Check the chemical compatibility of plants around your deck that may drip sap or drop leaves, as these can have a negative impact on the surface after prolonged contact.
	Ensure that the structure is suitably specified for the environment with a similar lifespan to the deck.
Immediate Intervention (within 7 days)	Clean food, drink, oil, and grease spills immediately with soapy water and a soft sponge.
	Sweep away any debris or dust, especially in high-traffic areas where the abrasive nature of dirt can cause faster wear.
	Repair any parts that may cause injury or further damage.
	Remove or move mats, inflatable pool toys and similar when they are not in use to prevent differential weathering.
Warranty issues reporting (within 30 days of issue)	Warranty claims must be filed within 30 days of identifying a potential issue. Retain proof of purchase and document the issue with photos.
Regular intervention	Sweep the deck to remove dirt, leaves, and debris as needed.
	In the event of a severe weather event, perform additional maintenance that may be required.
	Some organic matter like leaves may contain tannins that should be removed as soon as possible to prevent damaging the surface of the deck.
	Take care to remove any abrasive debris to prevent scratching the surface.
Monthly	Check for signs of wear, damage, or pest activity, that may require intervention.
	Wash the deck with warm soapy water and a soft bristle brush as needed. *
	Clean gaps between planks to ensure proper drainage and remove any blockages.
	Remove any debris or buildup
	Take care to remove any abrasive debris to prevent scratching the surface.

Quarterly to Semi Annually	Perform a detailed cleaning with warm soapy water and a soft bristle brush.	
	Check all fixtures and fasteners to ensure they are secure and not rusting.	
	Check areas under drains and where water flows frequently for signs of mould and mildew.	
	Deep clean the deck, including pressure washing as needed (per guidelines).	
Annually	Re-evaluate the condition of the deck and plan for any necessary repairs.	
	Review and update the seasonal maintenance schedule based on observed conditions.	
	Inspect fasteners, structural components, accessories, and drains in relation to their expected lifespan, replacing any parts as needed.	
	Check for loose boards, damaged boards, or any excessive wear that may need replacement.	
Major Maintenance In line with product lifespans	Replace, repair, or recoat parts as needed, including fasteners, structural components, and accessories.	
	Part	Lifespan
	Deck boards	Per Eva-last Warranty at time of purchase.
	Deck fasteners	Per Environment specific lifespan and per manufacturer
	Structures	Per Environment specific lifespan and per manufacturer
	Structural Fasteners	Per Environment specific lifespan and per manufacturer
	Accessories and other	Per Environment specific lifespan and per manufacturer

Appendix B

Troubleshooting

Common complaints	Typical issues	Potential solution
Deck is bouncy or springy.	Inappropriate spans.	Reduce spans and/or provide additional supports.
Deck boards sag between joists.	Inappropriate spans.	Reduce spans and/or provide additional supports.
Deck board ends lift or tent.	Inappropriate fastening distance from edge of the board and/or overhang.	Fasten board down closer to the board edge. Ensure board support and substructure are adequate. Ensure appropriate overhang distance.
Expansion gap is too large.	The installed gap did not consider potential minimum board temperatures for the site.	Refit using appropriate expansion gaps. Make use of shorter boards and/or breaker boards.
Ends of the deck boards are no longer even.	Boards were not left to acclimatise before installation and/or boards were installed at different temperatures without allowing for this.	Now that the boards have acclimatised, cut the boards to the same lengths. Ensure this is done at a consistent temperature to avoid similar problems in the future.
Boards 'tent' at butt joints.	Inappropriate expansion gaps.	Calculate correct expansion gap for site and cut board ends to satisfy. Make use of breaker boards and similar where possible.
Board end sags under load.	Inappropriate board overhang.	Ensure board end is adequately supported within 20 mm of board end.
Screws snapping.	Inappropriate number of fasteners per board and/or over-tightening/over-torquing of screws and/or incorrect fastener utilised for the application.	Ensure appropriate fastener is used. Ensure two fasteners (hidden clips or top fixings) are used at every joist. Ensure appropriate torque settings are utilised.
Boards are cracking at board edges in vicinity of top-fixing screws.	Inappropriate fastening edge distance and/or pre-drilling.	Replace board and ensure top fixing to edge distances are correct. Pre-drill in low-temperature installations.
'Mushrooming' occurring at top-fixings.	Over-tightening/over-torquing of screws and/or high deck board temperatures during installation.	Ensure appropriate torque settings are utilised. Avoid installations at particularly high site temperatures. Pre-drill the fastening holes.
Deck is squeaky.	Board-clip-substructure interaction is producing a noise when loaded.	Replace hidden fastener with a smaller fastener and/or a fastener with a suitable polymer coating.
Strands of Glass fibre of visible after cutting	Blades used to cut the board are not sharp or fast enough	Trim the strands with a sharp blade and dispose of the strands in accordance with health and safety requirements.
Cap material is peeling away from screw holes	Fastener in wrong position or depth or damaged by power washer.	Use the tool to fasten into place. Colour repairing cream is available patch fixing.