

Maintenance Guide **Decking**

All **TIMBRA Tech** decking boards undergo intense thermal modification, making them durable, stable, and rot-resistant without the need for additional surface treatments. However, using the correct installation and supplemental maintenance techniques will ensure the most beautiful and long-lasting decking.

Thermal modification is a natural way to enhance wood. The chemical-free heat treatment makes the wood extremely durable and stable for both indoor and outdoor use, giving it a deep, rich shade while highlighting its natural beauty.

Unlike chemical impregnation, **TIMBRA Tech's** thermal modification enhances the wood throughout, not just on the outer surface. The result is high-quality boards that are stable and durable in every sense.



Thermally modified wood does not necessarily need surface treatment

Like any other wood, **TIMBRA Tech** products will naturally turn gray over time. This process begins immediately after installation and can take anywhere from a few months to a few years, depending on the intensity of UV radiation. However, regular finishing minimizes natural wood cracks, ensures water and dirt repellency, and creates a visually even appearance.



Performance - After Installation | Unoiled wood exposed to UV light



Excellence - After Installation | Unoiled wood exposed to UV light

If you want to maintain or change the colour of unfinished thermally modified wood:

- If you want the wood to gray over time while minimizing natural cracking, finish the wood with a pigment-free oil.
- To reduce the natural silvering process or restore a darker colour, **TIMBRA Tech** boards can be protected by coating them with a UV-resistant pigmented mineral oil. The use of organic oils is not recommended for outdoor use or in damp rooms, as they contain substances that provide a source of nutrition for biological organisms, such as bacteria and mold.

After installing your decking, it's important to keep the surface free of leaves, needles, and other moisture-retaining debris that can promote mold.

Floral fertilizers, household chemicals, grilling stains, wine, drinks, and sauces can all leave stains on the surface, while dog claws, high heels, and other everyday items can scratch the boards. Most of these stains fade over time and become less noticeable. Deeper scratches and stains can be removed with light sanding; when sanding an oiled deck, a new layer of oil must be applied. Regular maintenance and oiling improve the deck's appearance and ease of cleaning. While the frequency of maintenance varies based on factors like climate, environment, application, colour preference, and the oil used, reapplying oil once a year is typically enough to maintain weather resistance and the wood's tone.

Cleaning Thermally Modified Wood

Thermally modified wood can be washed with a wood cleaner and warm water. Before applying the wood cleaner, thoroughly sweep the deck to remove all dirt and debris. Larger dirt particles can be removed mechanically (e.g., with a washing brush or deck cleaning machine).

For rinsing, it's a good idea to use a garden hose with a spray nozzle set to a soft shower; test it on a small area beforehand. A strong water jet can damage the wood and cause an uneven appearance.

When to maintain your decking

- ✚ Perform maintenance before the start of the deck season and also clean it in autumn.
- ✚ We recommend cleaning the deck regularly.
- ✚ Before oiling, ensure the surface is completely dry. For best results, apply oil in dry, warm weather.
- ✚ Avoid oiling your deck in extremely windy or hot weather, as this will dry the oil too quickly and prevent it from absorbing into the wood.
- ✚ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the oil used, as application and drying times may vary.

If you're oiling your decking, clean the surface first and follow the instructions that come with the care product.

- 1.** Remove any furniture and other items from the deck.
- 2.** Protect nearby plants from solutions or oil spills by covering them with a lightweight drop cloth or light-coloured tarp.
- 3.** Clean any dust, sand, and other dirt from the decking using water, a brush, and, if necessary, a wood cleaning product. Remove any moss with water and a scrubbing brush or other appropriate tool. Whenever grease or other food stains get on the deck, we recommend removing them as soon as possible with a wood cleaner and water.
- 4.** The surface to be oiled must be clean and dry.
- 5.** If using tinted oil, thoroughly mix each can before use and stir occasionally during application. We recommend testing the tinted oil on an inconspicuous section of the deck to confirm your color preference.

6. Choose a suitable tool for oiling (such as a brush, sponge, or mop). Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the products used.
7. Starting at the deck's edge, apply a thin layer of oil to one board at a time. If thick coats of oil are applied, the oil will not absorb properly and may cause an uneven appearance or pooling, which can later result in visible patches. Remove any excess oil that doesn't absorb into the wood. When oiling ribbed decking boards, avoid leaving thick layers of oil in the grooves; remove excess oil with a cloth.
8. One to two coats of oil are usually sufficient – two coats will likely be required for decking boards that haven't been maintained for some time.
9. Once the oil has dried properly, replace your decking furniture and enjoy the view!

Winter Maintenance Guide for Thermally Modified Decking

Proper winter maintenance is crucial for ensuring the longevity and appearance of your thermally modified decking. Follow these steps to protect your deck during the colder months:

1. Before winter begins, remove loose dirt, leaves, and debris from your deck. These can retain moisture, freeze, and hinder effective cleaning.
2. Inspect the condition of the boards and fasteners. Replace any damaged boards and tighten any loose screws or fasteners.
3. To keep your deck snow-free, clear snow before it freezes. Use a brush or plastic shovel to avoid scratching the wood surface.

4. Avoid using metal tools, such as crowbars or ice scrapers, as these can damage the decking. Similarly, walking on cleared decking with ice cleats or spiked footwear can leave scratches.
5. Anti-slip treatments can harm wood and shorten its lifespan. If necessary, apply such treatments with caution and at your own risk to avoid further damage. Damage caused by abrasives or chemicals is not covered by warranty.
6. Abrasive materials, such as granite grit, will not only break down the ice but also the surface of the wood. After snow and ice melt, clean the decking of any remaining anti-slip materials. Use fine-grained or specially designed anti-slip solutions for wooden decks, such as ground clay products like Leca Safe or very fine sand, to minimize damage.
7. Be cautious when using salt or de-icing products. Chlorides in salt can degrade lignin in the wood, draw moisture to the surface, and accelerate cracking. Salt can also corrode metal fasteners, reducing their lifespan.
8. Once winter is over, thoroughly clean your deck to remove any residue from the season. Inspect the deck to determine if oiling or other refinishing is necessary to protect the wood from further wear. Repair any damage caused during winter and replace any damaged boards.

Final Considerations

Proper maintenance is key to ensuring the longevity and beauty of your **TIMBRA Tech** decking. By following these simple steps and committing to regular upkeep, you will enjoy a stunning, durable outdoor space for many years to come. **TIMBRA Tech** decking is designed to stand the test of time, and with the right care, it will continue to add value and elegance to your home.