

# Cleaning and Care

## Composite Decking

### ROUTINE CLEANING

To keep your NeoLine composite decking looking its best, we recommend cleaning it **every 3-6 months** to remove dirt, mud, leaves, pollen, and debris that can build up over time. Organic matter left on the decking surface may trap moisture and contribute to surface staining or mildew growth.

### GENERAL CLEANING

For regular maintenance, wash the decking surface using warm soapy water and a soft-bristled brush. Always clean in the direction of the boards to help prevent debris from collecting in the grooves and affecting drainage.

To help preserve the appearance of your decking:

- Clean spills such as grease, oil, sunscreen, wine, bird droppings, or food stains as soon as possible.
- Avoid using harsh solvents, abrasive cleaners, or wire brushes on the decking surface.
- **Do not sand the decking boards**, as NeoLine composite boards feature a protective capped surface that may be damaged by sanding.

### DEEP CLEANING

For a more thorough clean, a pressure washer may be used with a **maximum pressure of 3100 PSI**. Always use a **fan-tip attachment** and keep the nozzle **at least 10"** away from the decking surface to avoid damaging the boards.

Following these guidelines will help maintain the appearance and durability of your decking.

Whichever cleaning method you choose, always clean in the direction of the boards to prevent debris from collecting in the grooves and affecting drainage.

### REMOVING STUBBORN STAINS

For tougher stains such as grease or oil marks, follow the routine cleaning guidance above along with the recommendations below:

- **Treat stains within 7 days** whenever possible.
- Use a water-based composite decking cleaner specifically formulated for removing oil and grease from composite surfaces.
- NeoLine composite boards feature a protective capped surface and **must never be sanded**, as this can damage the protective layer.

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### FURNITURE AND OUTDOOR ACCESSORIES

To help prevent scratches or marks on the decking surface:

- Use protective pads or non-marking feet under outdoor furniture and planters.
- Avoid dragging heavy furniture or objects across the decking boards.
- When using outdoor mats or rugs, choose breathable polypropylene-backed products where possible. Rubber or latex-backed mats may trap moisture or cause surface discolouration over time.

### DRAINAGE AND VENTILATION

Proper airflow and drainage are important for maintaining the long-term appearance and performance of your decking system.

- Keep gaps, drainage channels, and perimeter areas free from leaves and debris to allow water to drain effectively.
- Avoid allowing standing water to remain on the decking surface for extended periods.
- Ensure adequate ventilation beneath the deck structure, particularly in damp or shaded environments.

### CLEARING ICE AND SNOW

During winter, it is important to keep your deck safe and protected from snow and ice build-up.

To avoid damaging the decking surface:

- Do not use metal shovels, ice chippers, rakes, or other sharp tools, as these may scratch the boards. Instead, use a **plastic shovel or soft-edged snow removal tool**.
- We recommend using a salt-free, non-corrosive ice melt that will not leave residue on the decking surface and is generally safer for composite materials.
- If rock salt is used, remove any remaining residue promptly to help prevent scratching or surface damage.

### MOULD AND MILDEW

NeoLine composite decking is resistant to mould and mildew damage; however, surface growth can still develop in damp or shaded environments, as with most outdoor surfaces.

Regular cleaning and routine maintenance will help minimise the build-up of mould, mildew, algae, and other organic matter on your decking. Keeping the surface free from debris and ensuring proper ventilation and drainage will further reduce the likelihood of mould and mildew growth.