

Composite Lumber - Plastic and Wood

Wood plastic composite (WPC composite, or composite lumbar) is a hybrid material composed of natural wood and plastic fibre. Sawdust from fibre fillers like pulp, peanut hulls, and bamboo are mixed with new or waste plastic powder, from composite plastic materials such as polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene. Once the materials are mixed together to achieve a relatively thick consistency, they are extruded.

Additives, such as colourants, reinforcing agents, uv protectants and lubricants are added to achieve a higher level of specification for the intended product's use. As a result of their high cellulose content, wood plastic composites can be treated in a similar fashion as wood, but they are also moisture- and rot-resistant.

Rinse-Off WPC Decking

WPC decking is formulated to inhibit mildew growth and minimize staining. Rinse off your WPC decking periodically with a hose. Even if it appears clean, it is important to prevent the build-up of pollen/debris. Mildew stains may occur where moisture, pollens, and/or dirt are present. Mildew needs a food source to grow, which can be grass, pollens, dirt, debris, wood and wood resins. Maintaining a clean, dry surface is the best method for combating mildew. Ensure that water drains effectively from your deck. Keep weeping holes clear and unclogged on planks. Be sure that gaps exist between planks to allow for drainage.

Different types of stains, you can use different cleaning methods:

- Spot Stains

Many stains can be cleaned with soap and water. Areas cleaned may lighten, this will require 8-10 weeks exposure to the sun to match the remaining WPC decking.

- Scratches, Nicks, Cuts, and Grooves

Scratches, nicks, cuts, and grooves can be eliminated by using a wire brush. Brush in the direction of the grain of the product. The brushed area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks.

Like any wood-based product, WPC decking may experience a naturally occurring process called Extractive Bleeding. This process may cause a temporary discoloration that will weather away. In most cases, the weathering process takes 8-10 weeks but could vary depending on location and specific product application such as a covered porch.

These pictures show what extractive bleeding may look like. You may first notice these after a period of rain, especially if the materials have been installed over a dry period. The tannin stains can be removed by washing with water if required. Otherwise, it will disappear after the board has been wet and dried several times, for example - after the boards have been rained on a few times.

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After the natural process of extractive bleeding, the boards are subject to standard weathering, primarily from the UV rays of the sun. Our boards contain a UV stabiliser, but will undergo some further fading. The most noticeable change is when using the wood grain effect where the contrast between the two shades decreases significantly.

As cladding and fencing are perpendicular to the ground, not as much water sits on it as it would for decking. As a result, it may take 8 to 16 weeks for the natural wood oils to wash out. In some situations, the extractive bleeding process may take as long as 6 months.

Your cladding and fencing may have watermarks like those in the below image within this period, but these marks should all be gone after 6 months.



When exposed to UV rays of the sun, they will also continue to undergo some further fading. Extractive bleeding and fading as a result of UV rays is a standard feature of all uncapped composite materials containing wood and will be seen in products across the market.

To help with your decisions and ensure you can match your decking, cladding, and fencing with other elements of your garden or terrace, we've included a set of pictures below which show the natural weathering over the first 6

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months. These show the change in colour and the relative intensity of the wood grain effects upon different colours over time.



In Summary

Composite decking, cladding, and fencing provide a low maintenance alternative to traditional wooden decks and materials. Our composite range will hold their initial colour to varying degrees but will fade over time.

Products are available such as Rustoleum Rock Solid Composite Deck Refresh <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx5SrfFtIX8> to revive faded composite. There is also product like DEFY extreme composite deck sealer to extend the life of your WPC.

These products should not be used until the material is dry and stain free

