

The timber deck is an Australian icon and an integral part of our great love of outdoor living and entertaining. Constant weather and wear and tear mean that you will need a maintenance program to keep your deck looking great.



## CHECKLIST

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High quality deck brush                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamb's wool applicator     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hose line with trigger gun or high pressure washer | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint tray                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint stirrer                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Power drill or screwdriver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bucket                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Deck cleaner               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long handled broom                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Decking stain              |

## HINTS & TIPS

If you're not sure whether your deck is ready for recoating, try this simple water test. Just spray a few drops onto the deck. If the water beads on the surface, it doesn't need immediate attention. But if the water soaks straight into the timber, it's definitely time to recoat.

## PLANNING

Decking stains come as oil or water-based, and each have their own benefits. Oil based finishes penetrate into the wood very well, but take longer to dry and generally require more frequent recoating. Water-based product dry faster, have a gentler odour

and are water washable. Some are even formulated to last longer than oil based finishes. Both are formulated to repel water, resist mildew, and prevent fading caused by UV exposure.

## STEP 1 PREPARATION

Before staining the deck check for loose, cracked or rotting boards, and replace them if necessary – using the same timber

Next, clean the deck with a specific deck cleaner. Look for the dilution instructions on the container and prepare in a bucket.

Wet the deck thoroughly with a hose then apply the diluted cleaner and scrub into the grain.

Leave it for 10-20 minutes, then clean it off with a hose or high-pressure washer.

## STEP 2 APPLICATION



**PICTURE 1**

Before starting ensure you stir the stain in a scooping motion and in between coats.

For best results, use a high-quality deck brush or lamb's wool applicator, and avoid applying in full sunlight. For corners and other difficult areas, such as steps, railings, and decking board ends, use a deck brush.



**PICTURE 3**

Pour the deck stain into the paint tray, dip your applicator in the tray and evenly press out any excess on the tray ridges.



**PICTURE 5**

Finally, make sure to seal the end grain of each decking board. This helps to prevent rotting and water damage.



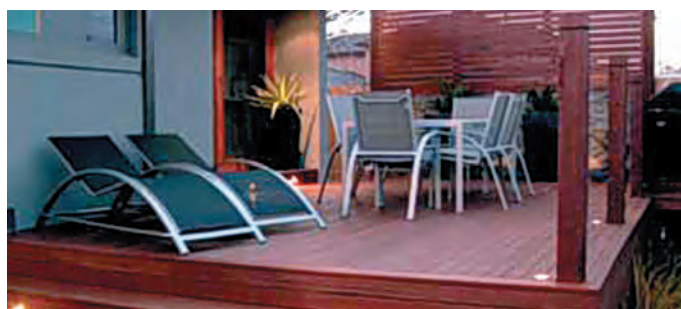
**PICTURE 2**

Dip your brush in the tin and wipe any excess off the brush using the rim of the can.



**PICTURE 4**

Apply in even long strokes in the direction of the grain. Cover the full length of 2-3 boards at a time, applying it well into the board. To avoid a streaky finish make sure you keep a wet edge on the applicator and apply two coats.



**PICTURE 6**

Allow appropriate drying time for your stain, before applying the second coat. Drying time varies between products and can be up to 24 hours, or longer if the humidity is high. Most water-based products dry quicker, allowing two coats in one day.

Sit back, relax and enjoy your new deck.

This information is intended as a guide only. Please check with your council for any relevant laws before commencing any work. Always wear personal protection equipment and use tools safely.