



Mold & Mildew (stains which may occur two months or longer after installation):

Since mold and mildew are naturally occurring in the environment, we cannot guarantee they will not grow on your deck. Mold and mildew are a form of plant life spread by spores that can settle onto any surface where moisture, pollen, dirt and debris collect. Air currents, insects, animals and water easily transport spores. Due to mold and mildew's adaptability and the large number of species that exist, they are very hard to control and impossible to totally eliminate. Periodic cleaning of your deck with a mold and mildew cleaner, even if it "appears" clean, is important in order to prevent the build-up of pollen, dirt, and environmental debris. Regular periodic cleaning can also help prevent the reoccurrence of mold and mildew. Products used to clean mold and mildew may lighten the deck surface.

It is important that any cleaning procedure fully remove the web-like "legs" of the mold and mildew colonies, penetrate the water repellent outer surface, and remove the food source. There are specially formulated "composite deck cleaners" available at your local hardware store that can be used with either a power washer or by simply spraying it on the deck and hosing it off. Always use a fan tip nozzle with no more than 1300 psi. Keep nozzle 8-10" from the deck surface and work in the direction of the wood grain to avoid any possible damage. Always follow product label use instructions. Some cases may require repeat applications until the desired level of cleanliness has been achieved. As with most cleaners, always wear appropriate personal protective gear.

Suggested cleaners:

Olympic® Premium Deck Cleaner (www.olympic.com)
Jomax® Deck Cleaner (www.zinsser.com)

****Most Cleaners contain Sodium Hypochlorite (commonly known as bleach). Any cleaner containing bleach may lighten the surface wood fibers of the product while removing mold stains.***

Always spray water on plants and shrubs around deck before and after the use of any deck cleaning solutions.

Eco-Friendly Alternatives (containing no bleach):

Corte Clean® Composite Deck Cleaner (www.corteclean.com)
Concrobium XT Eco-Wash™ (www.concrobium.com)

For added protection and to delay re-growth of mold or mildew, treat deck with a mold inhibitor only after you deck has been thoroughly cleaned.

Mold can spread and may return rapidly in some environments despite proper cleaning and preventative measures. Mold will not affect or damage the integrity of MoistureShield products.

Grease stains:

For grease stains, use a good degreaser such as Zep® Citrus or Greased Lightning®. *Please note it is important to wipe away spills immediately after they occur with the use of a quality detergent containing a surfactant such as Dawn liquid soap.* Spray degreaser liberally on the affected area then scrub spot with a plastic bristled brush. Let it sit for 5 minutes and wash off with water. Note; degreasing agents may temporarily lighten the surface wood fibers of your deck.

Tips for Preventing Mold Growth:

- Ensure proper deck gapping is achieved during installation (refer to installation guidelines)
- Ensure deck plank gapping is clear and free of debris
- Always wash deck after heavy pollen season
- Ensure proper ventilation around structure of deck
- Avoid any direct water discharge from gutters onto deck surface
- Avoid over spray of fertilizers on and around deck

A.E.R.T.'s warranty states under Exclusions: This warranty does not cover damage or defects resulting from or in any way attributable to: (l) environmental conditions such as mold or mildew on decking surface; (m) lack of proper cleaning; (n) staining from oil, grease, dirt (or other external substance). For additional cleaning tips, please contact our LifeCycle® Customer Service Department at www.LifeCycle.com or 1-479-756-7400.