
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Mold, Mildew, and Stains on Wood Decking and Cladding

From time to time, we get calls asking about mold growth on wood decking. Mold growth can occur on all building materials. Mold is a by-product of heat and water combined with organic materials like dirt and dust that provide the foundation for mold spores to grow. Black staining can also appear on building materials where the natural tannins contained in leaves leach onto the building material surface.

MOLD or MILDEW

It is essential to note that mold typically results from the buildup of organic matter on the deck surface combined with consistent moisture and heat exposure. Mold and mildew can affect virtually all construction materials, including plastics, composites, PVC, metals, and glass. Shaded decks and cladding are more inclined to mold growth than decks and cladding consistently exposed to UV.

Black Label™ Deck Cleaner can be used to clean dirty decks and cladding and may also remove mildew.

Tannic acid stains can be more challenging to remove and may require the use of Black Label™ Wood Brightener.

Black Label™ Wood Brightener is often used after cleaning to bring the wood surface back to its original color.

It is essential to note that once wood brighteners are used, the deck must be resealed immediately as wood brighteners can activate the natural sugars in the wood, which contribute to mold growth.

Ensure you rinse your deck thoroughly after applying Black Label™ Deck Cleaner or Wood Brightener.

Black Label™ recommends cleaning your deck every spring and fall or as needed.

Use extreme caution when handling any of these chemicals and wear protective clothing and glasses. Do not mix these cleaners with ammonia or household cleaners. We recommend tests in small areas on a few different boards before widespread use on the project. Always consult and follow the manufacturer's recommendations when using proprietary products.