

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## Mold, Mildew, and Stains on Wood Decking and Cladding

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### **Mold Concerns on Wood Decking**

Occasionally, we receive inquiries about mold growth on wood decking. Mold can develop on any building material. It forms when heat and moisture combine with organic substances like dirt and dust, creating an environment for mold spores to thrive. Additionally, black stains may appear on surfaces due to the leaching of natural tannins from leaves.

### **Mold or Mildew**

Mold growth typically results from the accumulation of organic matter on the deck surface, coupled with constant moisture and heat. Mold and mildew can impact virtually all construction materials, including plastics, composites, PVC, metals, and glass. Shaded decks and cladding are more prone to mold growth compared to those regularly exposed to UV light.

For cleaning dirty decks and cladding, Black Label™ Deck Cleaner is effective and may also help remove mildew.

Tannic acid stains, which are more stubborn, might require Black Label™ Wood Brightener. This product is often used post-cleaning to restore the wood's original color. It's important to reseal the deck immediately after using wood brighteners, as they can activate natural sugars in the wood that promote mold growth.

After applying Black Label™ Deck Cleaner or Wood Brightener, ensure you thoroughly rinse your deck. Black Label™ recommends cleaning your deck every spring and fall, or as needed.

### **Safety Precautions**

When handling these chemicals, wear protective clothing and glasses, and avoid mixing them with ammonia or household cleaners. Test the products in small areas on a few boards before applying them widely on your project. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using proprietary products.