



2020 ThermoWood Cladding Maintenance Guide

Cladding adds an exquisite look to any surface and is available in a variety of colours and textures and even years after installation you can regain its former beauty. ThermoWood cladding has a long-lasting life span, which is one advantage that's convenient because it will need little maintenance.

If the cladding is low to the ground and prone to dirt splashes, then a sponge over with a washing up liquid and hose off is adequate.

If the cladding is accessible and it has got grubby over time, then you can apply the 3 simple steps mentioned in our decking guide to make it look like new again.

However, if your cladding is a hardwood then letting it silver down and emphasise the natural timber's grain structure can look quite stunning and it will blend easily into its surroundings. This is purely UV oxidation of the surface and does not affect the timbers durability.

There are just 3 simple steps (dependant on accessibility)...

1 The first step is to completely clean the cladding of any dirt that has built up over time, we recommend using our Owatrol Prepdeck Cleaner/Stripper (2.5L). Prepdeck Stripper/Cleaner is a professional, high grade product specially designed for the removing of old solid and semi-transparent stains, grade stamps, mill glaze and other surface contaminants from wood.

Please note:

When using Prepdeck you must neutralise the surface afterwards with Net-trol. This prevents any reaction with the new coating to be applied.

How to apply? Using a conventional 5ltr pump sprayer, spray thoroughly over the boards and leave for about 10 mins before jet washing off thoroughly.

2 The second step is using Owatrol Net-Trol Neutraliser (2.5L) while the cladding is wet. Then thoroughly jet wash off.

3 The last step is applying Messmers UV Plus Oil for Decking (3.78L). Messmer's UV Plus is a premium natural wood finish that is specially formulated to penetrate the wood's surface to enhance the natural beauty and with its unique UV inhibitors, helps retain the timbers colour. This product has excellent resistance to UV degradation.

This will need to be applied by using either a cloth or a sponge. Coverage per tin on new timber is approx. 42m².

Please Note: Any surplus or runs on the surface need to be removed before the oil dries to avoid it becoming tacky.

Messmers UV Plus Hardwood Oil is used on all QTD's projects due to its superior performance over other oils.

End Grain Sealer:

When the timber starts to dry out it loses the moisture quicker through the ends of the timber hence the characteristics of grain checking and opening. Clear wax sealer seals the timber ends and slows down the moisture loss to a more controlled process, thus preventing this cracking. This is especially useful because cutting off the damaged ends not only becomes an expensive waste of timber but may mean the difference between having the right length of timber for your project or it being several centimetres too short. We recommend using our Messmers End Grain Wax Sealer to prevent the boards from end checking.

Oil Finish:

Oiling the boards will help you to retain the dark rich colours within the boards. This product contains UV filters to delay the silvering process that strong sunlight causes in all timbers. We can now provide you with two options when it comes to oiling your boards, you can purchase our Messmers UV Plus Oil or you can order your boards pre-oiled saving you the initial labour cost of applying it yourself. If after a year you wish to maintain your investment, we can supply the Clean & Oil starter Pack for you to use when convenient.

What is ThermoWood?

ThermoWood is the thermal modification of timber with pressure, high heat treatment and steam. During the process, controlled heat in the ThermoWood chambers goes up to 320°C while controlled internal heat of the timber reaches between 180°-220°C depending on variables of the species. Negative characteristics of the wood in external use such as rotting, fungal growth, insect formation, swelling and bending is minimized and abolished.

Do I need to maintain ThermoWood?

Any products used in externally will be in need of care and maintenance at some point. Maintenance period for the ThermoWood treated materials are much longer than the regular wood. Regular untreated wood will face problems such as rotting, fungal growth, insect holes, bending, etc. and therefore will require more frequent maintenance. ThermoWood products will not face the same problems above and therefore the maintenance period is much longer.

Why use a thermally treated board?

We would recommend using a thermally treated deckboard or cladding board due to its behaviour. Twisting, bending and warping has been minimalised in the process. Decay and infestation have been prevented. The board now has long lasting durability as well as protection against weather conditions. Other reasons may be that the timber is 100% natural, sourced from sustainable forests and preserved without any chemicals, and is not from the amazon region.

What's the difference between Hardwood & Softwood?

Hardwood and softwood are broad biological terms used to describe species of wood. The terms have nothing to do with the physical hardness. Hardwoods come from broadleaved trees and softwood species from coniferous, evergreen trees. There is a wide range of species of wood within each category that are highly suitable for decking. The important factors for wood used outdoors is that it is durable and stable enough to resist fungal decay and not twist and warp. This means using a hardwood classified as naturally durable (some are not) or a softwood given extended durability through treatment. New technologies like ThermoWood (heat treated timber) provide the ideal stability.

Will my timber sample be the same as the product?

Remember, timber is a natural product and variations in character are to be expected from tree to tree. Timber is not factory made and this cannot be controlled. Timber will have variations in colour between one piece and another. Composite materials however are manufactured. We recommend that you go and see an outdoor show area that allows you to view the materials in the environment that you are considering rather than rely solely on samples. If you are looking for decking or cladding, then viewing the materials under spotlights in a showroom is not going to be helpful in the medium to long term. However flooring and other internal products will be fine. Here at QTD we have an outdoor show area so that our clients can come and see what the materials look like, feel like and weather like in a natural environment.