

# DRYDEN®

**WOODOIL** THE NATURAL CHOICE  
FOR YOUR TIMBER

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## Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil Cleaning & Maintenance Guide

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Dryden recommend annual maintenance inspections and soft washing to keep exterior decking and hardwoods in optimum condition.

In some circumstances, due to localised environmental conditions soft washing will be required more regularly.

Inspections help with the early identification of maintenance requirements and minor issues before they become large expensive problems.

Recent changes to the Building Code mean most timber manufacturers provide proprietary systems. These systems require not only the correct materials being supplied and installed, but also that timber is correctly **maintained** to ensure the required durability is met.

When timber maintenance is neglected and poorly maintained defects can occur, which may result in extensive and avoidable damage to the durability of the timber.

When the timber is maintained in a systematic way, warranties for the timber building systems are met.

**Note:** This Dryden Decking & Hardwood Cleaning and Maintenance Guide primarily relates to cleaning softwood and hardwood decking, but these cleaning methods should be applied to all Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil coated exterior hardwood structures such as pergolas, seating areas, screens, stairs etc.

## Dryden Hardwood & Decking WoodOil Maintenance Re-coating Requirements

When Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil is applied, timber in exposed environments will **weather naturally and silver over time**. This means that the natural timber colour will be maintained under covered areas while transitioning out to silver in exposed areas.

**Note:** For maintenance of previously Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil coated timber Dryden strongly recommends changing to Dryden WoodOil 'Clear' for maintenance re-coating, as seasoned timbers are more receptive to accept the migration of Dryden WoodOil 'Clear'.

### Maintenance: 1 Coat System

#### **Decking Maintenance:**

Not within 12 months from completion of the initial coating system. Maintenance is often best conducted prior to winter. Maintenance may not necessarily be every year and will also depend on exposure, building orientation, timber type and grain.

For ongoing maintenance once hardwood timbers have been seasoned, Dryden recommend using **Dryden WoodOil 'Clear'** for maintenance coating.

### **Thicker Timbers 1 year:**

Thicker Timbers will require its first maintenance coat **1 Year** from from the completion of the initial coating system.

The shorter relative first maintenance cycle is due to the greater volume of timber requiring a greater amount of oil for protection and durability.

For ongoing preservation once the hardwood timber has seasoned, one coat of **Dryden WoodOil 'Clear'** should be applied up to 3 years after the initial coating system.

### **Dressed Hardwood Timber 1 year:**

Dressed hardwood timber such as external exposed timber joinery faces, frames, sashes and doors require their first maintenance coat at **1 Year** on from the completion of the initial coating system to allow for more protection and durability.

For ongoing preservation once the hardwood timber has seasoned, one coat of **Dryden WoodOil 'Clear'** should be applied up to 3 years after the initial coating system.

### **Modified Decking Timbers (Acetylated, Thermally) up to 1 year**

Modified Decking Timbers (Acetylated, Thermally) will require their first maintenance coat up to **1 Year** from the completion of the initial coating system.

Modified Decking timbers are timbers that have had a chemical structure change and become very dry. Lower moisture levels create more space within the timber for oil to migrate into and therefore the timber requires more oil than standard timbers.

Subsequent maintenance coats may extend out depending on areas coated, exposure, timber type and grain.

**Note:** Maintenance requirements may extend out depending on the quality of application of first coating, building design, orientation to sun, weather exposure, chosen colour, timber type and grain.

## **Determining the Cleaning Method**

### **Annual Inspection & Soft Wash:**

To keep your timber protected and looking fresh it must be inspected and maintained regularly. This simply means an annual soft wash and inspection of the timber surface.

By inspecting the building at the same time as the annual soft wash you can pre-empt any maintenance that may or may not need attending to.

Maintenance does not necessarily mean the whole building will require re-coating at one time. Generally, timber will require maintenance in sections depending on the building design, exposure and orientation to the sun.

### **Soft washing Prior To Maintenance (If carried out on time):**

Dryden recommend soft water washing of the surface to remove surface contaminants such as dust and pollens ready for maintenance recoating.

### **Maintaining a Silver Patina:**

When maintenance Soft Washes have not been kept up and mould spores have become apparent within the timbers silvered patina.

### **Washing Prior To Restoration Refurbishment Remedial Work (Maintenance not carried out on time):**

If maintenance has not been kept up, a stronger wash with Dryden SurfaceCleaner will be required, prior to re-coating with Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil.

Refer Dryden SurfaceCleaner data sheet for further cleaning information.

## **Preparation Prior To Cleaning**

### **Stormwater Collection:**

When working above roof lines, down pipes must be disconnected when feeding into stormwater collection system, to prevent contaminates polluting waterways.

Follow all local body requirements.

### **Tank water collection drinking or gardening:**

Disconnect all down pipes and thoroughly flush all gutters and roof areas prior to reconnecting.

## CLEANING METHODS

### Annual Inspection & Soft Wash

It's difficult to determine the condition of a finish when it's covered with layers of dirt, dust, pollen and other contaminants that will attract mould. It's necessary therefore to soft wash the building with clean water before starting a maintenance inspection.

#### Soft Wash

A soft wash with clean water is **intended to clean like rainfall**. It is sufficient to remove most surface contaminants such as dirt, dust, pollen and other environmental grime and is particularly important for areas where rain and wind cannot usually reach.

##### Equipment:

Dryden recommend using hose pressure in combination with a rose head spray adaptor with shower setting to rinse the timber. *Or, use a water blaster set to the lowest possible pressure and wide fan nozzle to generate a spraying mist.*

This method is acceptable when the **spray mist** is not brought close to the surface (**no less than 1.5 to 2 metres**) and is used to rinse the surface only.

Do not direct too closely around door openings, window frames and other openings around the cladding.

**Note:** Never use pencil or turbo nozzles on water blasters when cleaning timber.

##### Method:

Pre-soak the timber surface with hose or water blaster and wait 5 minutes before rinsing linearly along the timbers. Work from the left to right along the lengths of timber with long sweeping motions in the direction of the grain, feathering on and off at the end of each sweep of the area to be cleaned.

When stubborn dirt and contaminants are present use a soft brush (such as car wash brush) and a mild detergent solution to carefully remove, trying not to remove the timber silver patina.

If the silvered patina is coming off during the wash process, then soften the cleaning method.

**Note:** When the timber is coated with Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil and has a silvered patina, the soft wash cleaning process should only clean off contaminants, **not the desired silvered patina** look.

#### Inspecting

##### What are you looking for when Inspecting:

Start at one corner of the decking and be sure to look all the way around. Inspect all decking areas (multiple decks) individually and do not try to inspect too much at a time. Begin by standing back away from the decking and look for some of the more obvious signs of aging then have a close up look and feel.

From a distance it is easier to see general weathering and deterioration patterns etc.

When up close, look in detail at what's happening to the timber surface.

**Note:** All decking areas (multiple decks) may not require maintenance at the same time as there could be areas that still have the appropriate levels of Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil i.e. well protected/covered areas.

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**Refer Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil data sheet for further coating information.**

## Maintaining a Silver Patina

If for any reason maintenance Soft Washes have not been kept up and mould spores have become apparent within the timbers silvered patina, Dryden recommend using a product which will selectively kill mould and lichen on the exterior timber surface over an extended period. Then over time the weathering process will allow the dead growths to naturally erode away without damaging the silver patina.

**Note:** Do not use bleach-based products.

## Strong Wash Prior to Restoration Refurbishment Remedial Work

*(Maintenance not carried out on time)*

If for any reason maintenance has not been kept up with Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil or where timbers have not been previously coated and are silvered, then a stronger wash using **Dryden SurfaceCleaner** will be required prior to re-coating with Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil.

**Refer Dryden SurfaceCleaner data sheet for further information.**

**Note:** Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil is still deep within the timber, providing the protection the timber requires.

### Preparation

Evaluate the exterior timber surface to be cleaned and use the appropriate cleaning method and the pressure required to avoid damaging the timber.

When water blasting around painted surfaces, make sure that any visible damage is repaired before cleaning. If painted surfaces are unsound, the cleaning may lift and remove loose paint. Cover nearby plants, ponds and light fixtures.

Sweep or brush away loose debris from the surfaces to be cleaned.

Close windows, doors and place towels on the inside of window sills. Cover areas that need to be protected, e.g. vents or alarm boxes.

**Note:** When the timber is weathered and silvered **all** damaged timber cells, mould and other contaminants must be cleaned from the timber surface.

### Cleaning Tools

Water blaster or power washer (preferred method)

Firm bristle brush or broom, scouring pad. (Use only synthetic **not metal** scouring pads)

**Note:** Never use pencil or turbo nozzles on water blasters when cleaning timber.

**Note:** Water blasters are better used with low pressure and a high-water volume, 13 litres per minute plus are best. When using a water blaster ensure you are only cleaning and removing colour, dirt and silvered timber, from the surface of the timber and not damaging the actual timber

## Application Tools

Dryden SurfaceCleaner applies easily and rapidly and can be applied by:  
General garden sprayer  
Large backpack sprayer  
Motorised spray system

## Dilution Rates

Mixing ratio 10g SurfaceCleaner per Litre of clean water  
E.g. 100g Dryden SurfaceCleaner per 10 litres of clean water

**Note:** Ten litres of made up solution will clean approximately 60-70 square metres of timber surface, depending on porosity of the timber and environmental conditions when applying.

## Dryden SurfaceCleaner Application

Clean timber in shade out of direct sunlight or on overcast days.

Direct sun and warmth will evaporate the product and so will not remain active on the surface. Application must be done either in shade or on overcast day to prevent the product drying during the cleaning process.

Pour mixture into garden sprayer, seal and pressurise or other chosen method.

Ensure sprayer is kept pressurised to keep a good stream flowing.

Saturate surface to be cleaned, leave Dryden SurfaceCleaner, on the surface for 15 -20 minutes, keeping wet (re apply solution if necessary). This allows the Dryden SurfaceCleaner to saturate through the oxidised silvered surface and allow easier removal.

## Cleaning Methods

Before cleaning any surface, test cleaning method in an inconspicuous area to determine the optimal spray pattern, scrubbing technique and distance of water blaster from timber surface to obtain best cleaning results.

Always take care to ensure all run off is collected and safely disposed or water boomed off onto gardens or grassed areas.

Severely mould affected surfaces may require multiple cleaning treatments.

The following methods should remove all silvered timber fibres. When done correctly the timber surface should be back to an even natural look ready for re-coating.

After cleaning with Dryden SurfaceCleaner always rinse off ensuring all cleaning residue is removed.

### Firm Bristle Brush or Broom, Scouring Pad Cleaning.

After the Dryden SurfaceCleaner has soaked the surface for 15 -20 minutes, use a firm brush to systematically clean the boards linearly to remove dirt, contaminants and oxidized timber (weathered).

**Note:** Use duster brush or synthetic scouring pads, **no metal** scours to avoid iron staining.

### Water Blaster Cleaning (preferred method)

#### Method:

After the Dryden SurfaceCleaner has soaked the surface for 15 -20 minutes, use a water blaster to remove the dirt and oxidants.

Set water blaster to a low pressure setting approximately 870-1200 psi and wide fan (nozzle) setting.

**Note:** Never use pencil or turbo nozzles on water blasters when cleaning timber.

Always clean timber linearly, in direction of grain.

Keep water blaster nozzle at a consistent distance from the timber surface and pressure levels at a level that avoids damaging the timber.

Clean full length of the timber (do not stop mid-section. Clean timber to a natural break) going backwards and forward, **feathering on and off** at the end of each stroke overlapping slightly.

**Note:** Never leave the (water blasters) concentrated spray of pressurised water stationary in one spot at any time, especially when transitioning from left to right or vice versa of each cleaning stroke.

This will result in 'water pressure cleaning lines' markings on the timber surface, which will show when re-coating. **Always feather pressurised water** on and off to avoid markings.

### *Inspection (once dry)*

Once the timber has dried inspect your work.

The appearance of timber changes as it dries, small imperfections can often go unnoticed when the timber is wet.

The timber cladding should have no 'water pressure cleaning lines' from incorrect feathering on and off. The surface should be consistent with no areas unwashed, as when re-coating, faults may show.

### *Remaining Dull Timber, Stains and Blemishes*

After cleaning timbers may have a dull appearance or have cosmetic stains and blemishes. Dryden LiquidTimberClean is an effective specialist cleaning product which can be used to freshen and brighten dulled timber and will help to improve any cosmetic staining and blemishes.

**Refer Dryden LiquidTimberClean data sheet for further information.**

### *Prior to coating*

Once dry remove loose raised fibres (denib) using a 3M griddle scrubber or synthetic scorer pad, not metal.

**Refer Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil data sheet for further coating information.**

## Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil Re-Coating

For all re-coating requirements refer Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil Data Sheet.

## Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Precautions

Always wear appropriate PPE such as protective gloves, eye protection and face protection.

When spraying or in case of inadequate ventilation wear respiratory protection.

Wash skin thoroughly after handling with hot soapy water.

**Refer Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil SDS for detailed information.**

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## Information

The responsibility for products sold is subject to our standard terms and conditions.

For further information refer to the Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil Data Sheet and Dryden Decking & Hardwood WoodOil SDS.

For additional information contact:

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