

TRUNORTH® DECKING AND CLUBHOUSE® DECKING CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE



Basic Care and Cleaning for Your Deck

- Ensure minimum 6" ventilation under deck and required spacing between decking boards.
- Improve drainage or grade soil to eliminate standing water under decks.
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions, and splash guards away from decks.
- Position dryer vents away from decks.
- Maintain a deck that is dry and clean.
- Clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year.
- Use extreme caution with pressure washers and use at pressures less than 1,100 psi at 10" above deck surface. Wash in the direction of the grain pattern to avoid possible damage to the boards.
- Keep debris out of gaps between the decking boards so rain showers can remove pollen and organic debris between cleanings.
- Minimize the use of wet mulch up against the deck structure.
- Items stored directly on top of the deck surface, such as flower pots, prohibit water evaporation and can cause some staining of the deck surface.
- Use of wrought iron railing or other carbon steel materials in contact with or above an uncapped composite deck surface may cause dark extractive staining.
- If there is only a light dusting of snow, one of the easiest ways to clear your deck is with a leaf blower. Never use metal shovels or sharp-edge tools when removing snow or ice from your composite or PVC deck.
- When clearing snow, always shovel in a path parallel to the deck boards, not perpendicular.
- To remove ice and snow, never use sand. Use a calcium chloride-based "ice melt" or rock salt instead. Do not use ice melt with an added colourant - the dyes can stain your decking.
- Use a broom to sweep up any existing granular pieces and discard the ice melt. If there is any remaining build-up of ice melt, it can be removed with water and a light scrubbing using a non-metal deck brush.
- If soap and water isn't sufficient, an all-purpose cleaner such as Fantastik can usually cut through the grease and grime.
- Avoid spraying insect repellent or applying any type of suntan/sunscreen product while on the deck. These products contain chemical ingredients that may react with the decking material and result in a stain on the decking surface.



- Do not use rubber or vinyl products on PVC decking. A reaction could occur, and result in discoloration under the rubber or vinyl product.

Store decking under a cover to ensure boards are clean when ready to install. If stored outdoors, decking must be covered with a tarp designed for outside use. Products should be stored in a dry space with bottom supports equally spread apart. For long term storage, products should be banded together.

TruNorth® composite materials should not be dumped when unloading

- When carrying TruNorth® decking, it is easier to carry on its edge
- Avoid rubbing planks against each other when moving them
- When removing deck boards from the skids, the boards should be lifted and then carefully set down
- Do not slide tools or drag equipment across the top of the planks during construction
- Keep the surface of the planks free of construction waste to prevent damage

Adhering to the guidelines above when handling these planks will minimize any damage prior to and during installation, while preserving the natural colour and wood grain appearance.

Basic Cleaning Recommendations: Although TruNorth® products are low maintenance, we recommend periodic cleaning to help maintain the natural wood grain of the product. For best results, power wash using dish soap detergent. The recommended maximum pressure is 1700 psi for TruNorth® composite decks. A fan tip nozzle must be used along with the proper cleaning product. Spray in the direction of the brush/grain pattern to avoid damaging the product. Use caution not to damage the material and always take the proper safety precautions when operating a power washer.

Ice & Snow: For ice removal, either rock salt or calcium chloride may be used without damage to the surface. However, either of these products may leave a white residue, which may be removed by either rinsing with water or a mild soap/water solution. If shoveling the deck, a plastic shovel or a shovel with a plastic edge must be used. Ensure you shovel in the same direction the deck boards are installed in length. Going across the deck boards will leave scratch marks.

Painting, Staining, and Sealing: Although NOT recommended, TruNorth® products may be painted or stained. Once the product is painted, stained, or sealed, subsequent applications will be necessary to maintain appearance. TruNorth® Decking does not guarantee the performance of anything applied to the product. Wait approximately 4 to 6 weeks or until the product has completed its weathering process before painting or staining. Clean your TruNorth® surface prior to applying paint or stain. Never paint or stain over surfaces that may contain dirt or mildew. Apply paints and sealers in accordance with the manufacturer's application instructions.

Dirt, Grime, Mold, and Mildew: TruNorth® products are formulated with 95% natural fiber (rice hulls), recycled bottles, glass spheres, and other additives. Rice hulls are highly resistant to moisture penetration and fungal decomposition. Mold, mildew, and fungi will grow on everything - however, the rice hulls prevent the mold from growing into the product. TruNorth® recommends that products should be periodically hosed or power washed. Even if it appears clean, it is important to prevent buildup of pollen/debris. Mildew stains may occur where moisture, pollen, and/or dirt are present. Mildew needs a food source to grow, which can be grass, pollen, dirt, debris, wood, and wood resins. Maintaining a clean, dry surface is the best method for combating mildew.

Spots, Stains, and Scratches: Many stains can be cleaned with soap and water. If the stains have set, TruNorth® rec-

ommends using a wire brush going with the grain to remove the stain. Areas cleaned may lighten - this will require 6 to 10 weeks exposure to the sun to match the remaining product. Wipe up spills immediately to avoid any permanent stains.

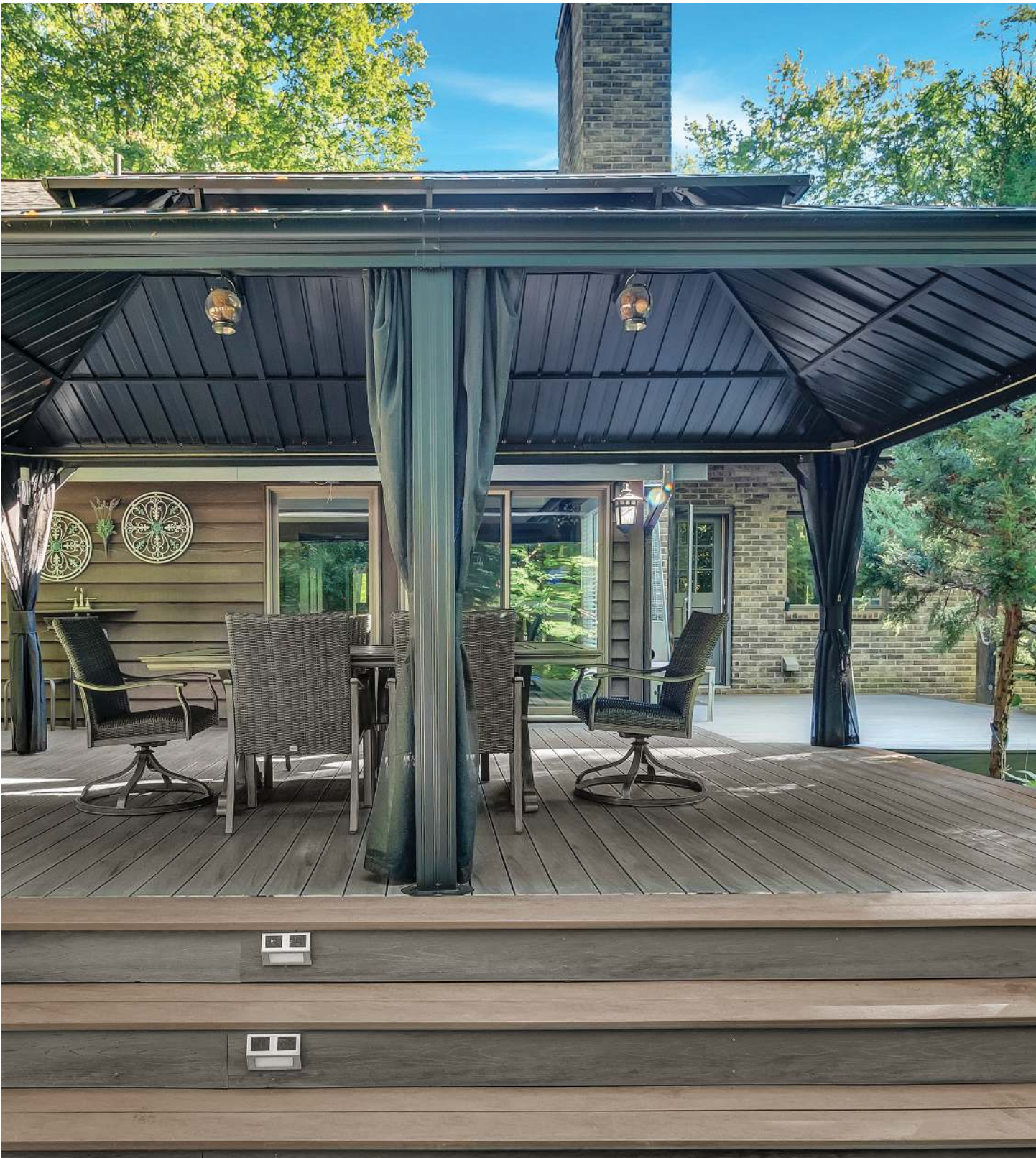
- Exceeding recommended concentration of cleaners can damage the product's surface.
- Avoid abrasive cleaners. Test any cleaner in an inconspicuous area before applying to major areas. Excessive scrubbing is unnecessary, may be harmful to the product and may cause an undesirable glossy area over the finish.
- Common dirt and dust should be cleaned occasionally with a garden hose or soft-bristled brush.
- Use a plastic putty knife and gently clean between decking planks to clear debris.
- All sources of high heat should be placed on a non-rubber/non-vinyl grill mat or splatter guard to minimize stains and kept a safe distance from railing.
- Snow may be removed from the deck surface using a non-metallic shovel. Sharp shovels that scrape or chip wood decking should not be used. While salt/rock salt will not affect the structural integrity of the deck, it may cause stains. If using salt to break up ice patches, remove salt as soon as possible to avoid stains and scratches. Do not use salt/ash mixtures. Ice melt products containing calcium chloride and/or magnesium chloride can be used on TruNorth® Decking and Clubhouse® Decking.

Other helpful information:

Environmental Blushing: This is caused by buildup of heat and moisture due to a wide surface area of deck being covered (e.g. by flower pots, rubber backed grill mats). Do not use rubber backed mats on the decking. Raise flower pots with stands/footers to allow airflow under the pot.

Low-E Glass: Reflection from Low-E glass and windows can cause excessive heat build up on decking. Given the right environmental conditions all surfaces will get hot. When installing dark colours in hot sunny climates it is recommended that you test samples in the area prior to installation.






TRUNORTH[®]
DECKING


CLUBHOUSE[®]
DECKING

High quality, low maintenance **decking simplified.**