

MAXIMOTM

TECHNICAL BULLETIN Natural Weathering vs. Finishing Decking

When deciding whether to allow your naturally durable hardwood decking to weather naturally, you're making both an aesthetic and maintenance choice. Applying a single coat of a penetrating oil-based finish to all sides of the wood decking during installation can slow the acclimation process. If you opt to let your deck weather naturally, UV exposure will gradually break down the oil finish, leading to a silver-grey appearance over time. The only maintenance required will be occasional cleaning to remove dirt and mildew.

It's crucial to understand that mold can grow on any surface, including glass. Accumulation of dirt or pollen can provide a food source for mold spores.

Although water-based finishes are available, penetrating oil is generally preferred. Water-based finishes can be applied over oil, but not the other way around.

Wood decking has the distinct advantage of being able to return to its original color. Stains can fade over time or be removed through cleaning or sanding. Unlike composites, there's no concern about permanent color fading or difficulties in matching replacement boards. Ultimately, the choice is yours. Natural wood decking offers the flexibility to achieve your desired look at any stage of the deck's life.

