



# Cleaning and Maintenance Instructions for all UPM ProFi® Deckings

UPM ProFi products have been designed with closed surfaces that offer greater resistance to spills and stains.

However, as with any outdoor flooring surface, periodic cleaning and correct care is needed to ensure that the deck retains its beauty for many years.

## **Free from debris**

Ensuring that leaves and other debris are swept from the deck will minimise the need for deck washing.

## **Normal washing**

Warm water and gentle brushing is often enough to clean away dust and debris. Normal household detergents can also be added to the water without damaging the decking.

A pressure washer is recommended for a more thorough cleaning. A narrow jet spray is most effective. To avoid damaging the deck surface, the pressure should be in the mid range (not more than 80 bar), and the nozzle should be kept at least 35 cm from the boards. The temperature of the water should not be higher than 40 °C. The deck should first be sprayed with a detergent solution, then gently brushed, and finally rinsed with the spray.

## **Materials and cleaning agents**

Jet washing, warm water and detergent, and medium bristle brushes are the only materials and cleaning agents that should be used. A scourer (scrubbing sponge/pad) should never be used as it will damage the deck surface.

## **Oil and grease stains**

Due to UPM ProFi decking's closed surface technology, oil and grease spills can normally be cleaned without staining. Such spills should be removed and the surface cleaned as soon as possible (ideally within 3 hours) with warm water and detergent. Should a grease stain remain, a household degreasing agent may be used to remove it. The deck should be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning with warm water. It is recommended to place a grill mat underneath a grill/barbecue.

### **Scratches or surface abrasions**

UPM ProFi deck boards are designed to withstand normal decking use. However superficial marks and scratches may be caused if furniture or other heavy objects are dragged over the deck. These will not affect the structural performance of the deck and will become less visible over time. For UPM ProFi Lifecycle products these catches may also be repaired by the careful use of a hot air gun (take care not to burn the deck). No attempt should be made to sand the deck surface.

### **Mould or mildew**

Mould and mildew occur naturally on damp surfaces which contain plant based materials (leaves, pollen, seeds, etc.). Mould will grow on untreated timber decks or traditional composite decks that have an open surface (unless a biocide has been used). UPM ProFi Deck and Piazza are free from biocides, but have a closed surface which minimises mould growth. UPM ProFi Lifecycle and Vision have a closed surface and a mild biocide to inhibit mould growth. However, it is important that deck boards are kept free from leaves and other garden debris with which mould could develop. Sufficient ventilation underneath the deck is also necessary to enable the surface to dry. In case mould has been allowed to grow, normal washing as described on the previous page should be done. Should you have any questions, please contact your UPM ProFi distributor's representative.

### **Ice and snow**

De-icing salt can be used to remove ice from UPM ProFi decking and plastic or wooden shovels may be used to clear snow. Metal shovels should not be used, as they may scratch the deck surface.

### **Rust stains/stubborn spots**

If metal filings (e.g. from iron railings or garden furniture) are left on the deck, rust stains may result. These may be removed with proprietary composite deck cleaners containing oxalic acid in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Tannin or rust stains (Lifecycle)**

As with many products containing wood, tannin stains may occur due to a reaction between the hardwood fibres, moisture and metal filings (e.g. from iron railings, packaging, garden furniture or construction tools). The dark spots will often disappear by themselves during the natural weathering of the deck (approx. 12 weeks). Alternatively they may be removed with a proprietary deck cleaner containing oxalic acid used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Rust stains caused by metal filings left of the deck may be similarly removed.

### **Chalk lines**

Cutting lines should only be drawn with non-durable markers. Normally warm water and detergent should be enough to remove such lines.

### **Black marks from rubber on UPM ProFi Deck 150**

To remove black marks from shoe rubber or mallet, please use a rubber/eraser (same as for pencils).

### **Paint & Varnish**

UPM ProFi decking is designed not to need any new surface coating during its lifetime. Paint and varnish should be avoided as they may not adhere well to the surface and will reduce the friction properties of the deck.

*For any cleaning material used, it is important that the manufacturers' instructions are strictly followed concerning its proper usage, any safety precautions needed and its disposal. It is advisable to test any cleaning material initially on a small inconspicuous area of the deck. Different cleaning materials should never be mixed, and the deck should be thoroughly rinsed after any application.*

