

Deck Care 101: It all starts with prep



MS Photo

(MS) — As the weather gets warmer, we tend to spend more and more time outdoors. There is no better place to sit and enjoy the great spring weather than on your deck.

Did you know that the key to keeping your deck looking great for years is not in the stain or finish you apply — it's in the surface prep? Weathered wood needs to be cleaned and restored before a single brush stroke of new stain or water-repellent can be applied.

For a great looking deck, follow these tips from the experts at Wolman Wood Care Products. **Thoroughly clean**

Clean pressure-treated wood decks with an acid- and chlorine-free, oxygen-powered powder concentrate. It is tough on stains yet safe to use near plant life and shrubs. If you're not sure of your wood type, use Wolman Deck and Fence Brightener liquid concentrate. It is formulated to restore all wood — even tannin-rich woods like cedar, redwood,

mahogany and other exotic hardwoods.

Both products clean and restore wood to its natural beauty without bleaching or yellowing and remove invisible surface barriers, which can prevent the adhesion of protective coatings and stains. These fast-acting formulas loosen and lift dirt, stains and discoloration in just 10 minutes. And they are easy to use — just mix with water, spray on, brush in and rinse off with a garden hose.

Strip away deteriorating or unwanted finishes. If the colored finish on your deck has seen better days — or if you want a different look — remove it with a product like Wolman DeckStrip Stain and Finish Remover. For tough to remove 100 percent acrylic stains, use Wolman DeckStrip ASR Acrylic Stain Remover. Both remove oil- and water-based solid, semi-transparent and clear finishes and prepare wood for a new finish or stain. The ready-to-use highly

concentrated formulas work in just 15 minutes without the need for multiple applications. They contain special wetting agents and thickeners that cling to all wood surfaces — even vertical surfaces — so they are great for fences, gazebos, play sets and more!

Beautify and protect

Once your deck has been properly cleaned and restored, beautify and protect it with a water-repellent coating. Apply a semi-transparent or solid stain, like Wolman DuraStain or a rich transparent oil finish, to enhance the beauty of your deck.

Even if you decide not to stain, it's important to protect your deck with a clear water repellent sealer. Water repellent sealers stop rain from penetrating the wood surface, which can cause swelling, shrinking, warping and cracking. Many water repellent sealers also contain a mildewcide that will impede the growth of mildew on your deck during the warm, humid months ahead.

Surface preparation is a key component of deck maintenance.

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