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Before You Build

- Ensure that there is a minimum 6" ventilation under the deck and the required spacing between deck boards
- Improve drainage or grade the soil to eliminate standing water under decks
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions, and splash guards away from decks
- Position dryer vents away from decks
- Use of wrought iron railing or other carbon steel materials in contact with, or above, a composite deck surface may cause dark extractive staining
- Store decking under a cover to ensure boards are clean when ready to install. If stored outdoors, the decking must be covered with a tarp designed for outside use. Deck boards should be stored in a dry space with bottom supports equally spread apart. For long term storage, deck boards should be banded together

During Installation

- Avoid rubbing planks against each other when moving them to prevent scratches
- When removing deck boards from the skids, the boards should be lifted and then carefully set down to prevent damage
- Do not slide tools or drag equipment across the top of the planks
- Keep the surface of the deck boards free of construction waste to prevent damage
- Adhering to the guidelines above when handling these deck boards will minimize any damage prior to, and during, the installation, while preserving the natural colour and wood grain appearance

Maintenance Tips and Preventative Measures

- Maintain a deck that is **dry and clean** for best results
- Keep debris out of the gaps between the decking boards so rain showers can remove pollen and organic debris between cleanings
- Minimize the use of wet mulch placed up against the deck structure
- Items stored directly on top of the deck surface, such as flower pots or mats, prohibit water evaporation and can cause some staining of the deck surface (this is known as “**environmental blushing**”)
 - Raise flower pots with stands/footers to allow airflow under the pot
- Do **not** use rubber or vinyl products on Clubhouse PVC Decking. A reaction could occur, and result in discolouration under the rubber or vinyl product
 - If white marks appear on your deck after placing a rubber/vinyl mat on it, you can remove these marks with a heat gun. Using a low setting to start, apply the heat gun a few inches above the white marks, moving it back and forth over the affected area without holding it in one spot for more than a few seconds. The marks should disappear after a few seconds. Turn up the heat setting slightly if needed.
- 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
- Spills should be cleaned up **immediately** to prevent staining. Please note that 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 look
- All sources of high heat should be:
 - Placed on a non-rubber/non-vinyl grill mat or splatter guard to minimize stains
 - Kept a safe distance from railing

Washing

- Wash your deck with soap and water as often as needed, **at least twice each year**
- If soap and water isn't sufficient, an all-purpose cleaner can usually cut through the grease and grime

Approved Cleaning Products

- Dawn® (good for grease spots)
- Fantastik®
- Murphy Oil Soap®
- Lestoil®
- Windex®
- Lysol®
- Simple Green

Power Washing

- You may use a power washer to clean your TruNorth or Clubhouse deck, but be sure to use **extreme caution**
- Use dish soap detergent with the power wash
- You **must** use a fan tip nozzle
- Wash in the direction of the grain pattern to avoid possible damage to the boards
- Use pressures less than 1,100 PSI at 10" above the deck surface
- For decking purchased before February 1, 2017, please email sales@trunorthdeck.com for advice about cleaning your deck

Mold and Mildew

- Mold, mildew, and fungi can grow on just about anything - however, TruNorth and Clubhouse Decking's capping prevents these from growing into the core
- 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.
- TruNorth Composite Decking contains rice hulls that are highly resistant to moisture penetration and fungal decomposition
- Clubhouse PVC Decking contains no organic material, and is therefore also safe from mold

Caulking, Tar, Compounds, and Similar Substances

- Clean with mineral spirits in reasonable amounts, applied directly to the substance
 - After cleaning, rinse off immediately with soapy water
- To remove rust, use a deck cleaner containing phosphoric acid and a commercial pressure washer (see additional information in the Power Washing section)

Snow

- If there is only a light dusting of snow, one of the easiest ways to clear your deck is with a leaf blower
- For heavy snow, use a plastic shovel or a shovel with a plastic edge
- **Never** use metal shovels or sharp-edge tools when removing snow/ice from your composite or PVC deck
- When clearing snow, always shovel in a path parallel to the deck boards, not perpendicular. Shoveling across the deck boards can cause scratch marks
- **Never** use sand to remove snow/ice. You may use a calcium chloride or magnesium chloride-based “ice melt” or rock salt instead without surface damage. If either product leaves a white residue, rinse with water or a mild soap/water solution to remove it. Do not use salt/ash mixtures
- If using salt to break up ice patches, remove salt as soon as possible to avoid stains
- 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 buildup of ice melt, it can be removed with water and a light scrubbing using a non-metal deck brush

Pools and Other Bodies of Water

- TruNorth and Clubhouse Decking were designed to be used in conjunction with all outdoor living activities
- Chlorinated water from pools and spas will not harm TruNorth or Clubhouse boards
- TruNorth and Clubhouse Decking were designed to withstand marine/seaside environments. They are perfect for docks, boat slips, and beach house decks

Low-E Glass

- Reflection from Low-E glass and windows can cause excessive heat buildup 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

Thank you for choosing TruNorth Composites!

- Scan this QR code with your device to easily:
- View our website (trunorthdecking.com)
- Read FAQ's
- Explore our social media
- Sign up for our email list
- And more!

