



# TREX SIGNATURE® CARE AND CLEANING GUIDE

All exterior building products require cleaning. Generally, only soap and water are required to clean Trex Signature® decking products.

Some cleaning agents or chemicals such as solvents, acids or plasticizers can damage the surface of Trex Signature decking. Examples may include insect repellents, sunscreen products, or degreasing cleaning agents. Always refer to manufacturing labels as well as contact Trex customer care to determine if a specific product is safe to use. Many products will contain warning information regarding damage to plastic and these such products should never be used on Trex Signature decking.

**IF ANY CONDITION OCCURS WHICH IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE USE OF NON-RECOMMENDED CLEANING AGENT OR CHEMICALS, SUCH CONDITION SHALL NOT BE COVERED UNDER THE TREX LIMITED WARRANTY.**

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Dirt and Debris	The affected area should be sprayed off with a hose to remove surface debris. Use warm soapy water and a soft bristle brush (do not use a wire brush) to remove dirt and debris from the embossing pattern.
Using a Pressure Washer (General Cleaning Issues)	A pressure washer with no greater than 3100 psi** that has a fan attachment/adjustment and soap dispenser may be used to remove dirt or mud. Spray deck with soap, then follow by gently scrubbing each deck board with a soft bristle brush (do not use a wire brush). Spray/rinse each individual deck board using a fan tip no closer than 8-in (203 mm) from the decking surface. RINSE THOROUGHLY. If dirty water from cleaning is left to dry, a film will remain on the decking surface.
Issues with Concrete, Cement, Mortar, or Stucco Dust	When working with cement, concrete, mortar, or stucco, protect the decking as much as possible to prevent contact with dust particles on the decking surface. When dust particles from these products are exposed to heat or moisture, a reaction may occur causing them to become very difficult to remove. If particles get on the decking surface, Trex recommends using Sakrete™ Concrete Dissolver ( <a href="http://www.sakrete.com/products/concrete-dissolver">www.sakrete.com/products/concrete-dissolver</a> ). BE SURE TO FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
Hard Water Staining	Hard water is water with high amounts of mineral deposits like lime, silica and calcium. When the water dries, deposits are left behind, leaving unsightly spots on surfaces. This is not a defect of Trex products but an issue with the water itself. Generally, these deposits can be cleaned with white vinegar on decking surfaces. Rinsing is required, so care should be taken to not use hard water for this purpose. If hard water must be used, dry with a cloth or use a blower to dry surfaces. In some cases a deck brightener* product may also be used to help clean hard water stains.
Chalk Lines	Most colored chalks are permanent and may discolor the surface. Use only Irwin Strait-Line® Dust-Off Marking Chalk (purple), DeWalt® Blue Chalk, or DeWalt® Orange High Visibility Chalk.
Tannins Due to Debris	Remove all debris from the deck using a hose or broom. Once the deck surface is dry, apply a deck "brightener" to the deck as directed by the manufacturer. Deck Brighteners contain oxalic acid, which will also remove tannins.
Ice and Snow	A plastic shovel may be used to remove snow from the deck. Use calcium chloride or rock salt to melt the snow and ice from the deck surface.
Oil, Grease, and Food	All food spills should be removed as soon as possible. The surface must be cleaned within seven days to maintain the stain warranty. To remove, spray off with a hose and use warm, soapy water and a soft bristle brush (do not use a wire brush) to remove spills from the embossing pattern

Strait-Line® is a registered trademark of Irwin Industrial Tool Company.

DeWalt® is a trademark of Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

Sakrete™ is a trademark of Oldcastle APG, a CRH Company.

\*Use of products can lighten the surface of Trex. Use in an inconspicuous area to determine whether you like the effect. Product will not affect the structural integrity of Trex.

\*\*Use of a pressure washer greater than 3100 psi could damage the boards and void the warranty.



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Mold and Mildew	If debris such as pollen and dirt is allowed to remain on the deck surface, mold can feed on the biofilm. Using a hose and warm, soapy water with a soft bristle brush (do not use a wire brush) is recommended to remove the food source and mold.
Trex and Static Electricity	While this is not common, static electricity can occur on walking surfaces in dry climates or in areas where dry winds and dust-borne particles lay on the decking surfaces. Static electricity can build up on occupants walking across any composite decking surface, including Trex®, then produce a small static shock if they touch a grounded metal surface such as railing, door, etc. This condition can be decreased greatly with the use of a product call ACL Staticide®. Two products tested were General Purpose Staticide® and Heavy Duty Staticide®. Both are effective in greatly reducing static electricity on Trex decking surfaces. Apply full strength, using a mop on a dry decking surface, and allow to dry; no rinsing or diluting needed. Products are non-toxic, non-flammable, non-staining (will not change the color of decking surface), completely biodegradable, and safe to use. Product is water-based and may require a second application after rain or other weather conditions. Over a period of time, the effect of static will dissipate naturally on the decking surface. See link for more information on product: <a href="http://www.aclstaticide.com/antistatic_coatings.html">www.aclstaticide.com/antistatic_coatings.html</a>
Rubber Mats	Use caution when using rubber-backed mats (i.e. welcome mats, etc.) as these may contain substances that can sometimes discolor or lighten the decking surface.
Curving Trex Decking	At this time, it is not recommended to curve Trex Signature decking.
Job Site Storage	Store decking on a flat level surface and ALWAYS use proper supports (dunnage). DO NOT store directly on the ground. When stacking decking bundles, supports (dunnage) should start approximately 8-in (203 mm) from each end and be spaced approximately 2-ft (0.61m) on center. In addition, supports (dunnage) should line up vertically/perpendicular to the decking product. Adjust support blocks (dunnage) accordingly if bundles are loose. For all Signature decking products the maximum stack height is 14 bundles (IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT PROPER DUNNAGE SPACING MUST BE IN PLACE FOR THESE HEIGHTS). When stacking multiple bundles, ensure that dunnage lines up vertically down through each stack. ALWAYS cover decking products on site until ready to be installed.

**NOTE: CONSTRUCTION METHODS ARE ALWAYS IMPROVING.**

**PLEASE REFER TO WWW.TREX.COM FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS.**