

## Care and Finish

**Before beginning any staining we suggest a light sanding of the product with an orbital sander and 110 grit sand paper to aid in stain penetration.**

**Stain:** If deck boards have not been prestained (see installation tips), apply a protective oil-based stain as soon as possible. Make sure the stain contains:

1. UV protection
2. Water-repellent preservative
3. Mildewcide

A stain with some pigment will be more effective than a completely clear coating. Select a premium penetrating oil stain rather than paint. (Consider a product line that offers a stain for hardwoods for a maximum penetrating formula.) Always follow instructions on a manufacturer's label. Do not use a solid dark stains or paint.

**Keep Clean:** Remove dirt on a regular basis with a commercial deck wash or a household recipe of 1 quart bleach, 3 quarts warm water, 2/3 cup TSP, 1/3 cup detergent\*. NO AMMONIA. Sand lightly if wood fibers are raised.

**Refinish:** Refinish a clean deck on the schedule recommended by the stain manufacturer. If a deck is built in the fall or winter and cannot be stained immediately due to temperatures, plan to clean and finish the deck as soon as possible in the spring.

\* A bleach formula is recommended when a mildew or algae is detected. Take care to cover and protect adjacent vegetation during use.

## Installation Tips

- Storage:** Keep dry by placing blocks under lumber for ventilation. Do not store directly on the ground. Cover with tarp.
- Protect:** For maximum performance, pre-stain deck boards and railing components on all sides prior to installation. Select a premium penetrating oil stain rather than paint. Consider a product line that offers a stain for hardwoods for a maximum penetrating formula. Seal all end cuts.
- Site Preparation:** Clear rocks and debris from site. Grade site for proper drainage. Remove vegetation and lay down landscape paper or poly. Maintain sufficient air flow under deck.
- Space:** Leave at least 1/8" gap between deck boards.
- Predrill:** Predrill ends to avoid splitting.