MAINTAING HERBIE DECKING

The addition of timber decking to your garden can embellish its appearance wonderfully, but once it has been implemented, it needs to be monitored throughout the year so that it doesn't lose its visual appeal, or indeed its robust quality. Here's how you can maintain your decking over the course of the year so that it remains as good as new for a long time to come.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Main duties: Washing & Sealing

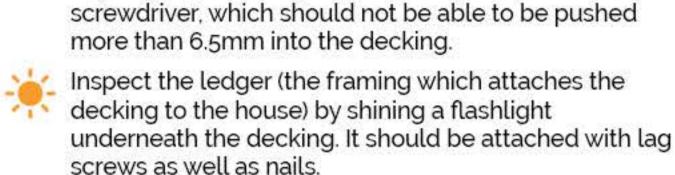
Mid to Late Spring

- Remove debris from between the boards of your decking, using a putty knife. Protect any plants or shrubbery by soaking them and
- covering them with plastic sheeting.
- Sweep the decking thoroughly.
- Cleanse the decking with a standard cleaner, complying with its directions. You may need to wet the decking first before applying the cleaner. On a cool, cloudy day, clean the decking with a standard
- wood cleaner, complying with its directions. Use a paint roller, garden sprayer or stiff-bristled brush to apply the cleaner. Once the cleaner has soaked in, rinse the decking with clean water.
- Allow the decking to dry for at least 2 days before beginning sealing. You will need clear skies and moderate
- temperatures for the sealing to be effective. Sand the deck lightly with a pole sander.
- Carefully replace any missing or popped nails/screws.
- Apply the sealing with a roller, covering 3-4 boards at a time.

Main duties: Inspection & Repair

Midsummer





(e.g. steps, perimeter posts) with a flathead

Check for signs of rot by probing structural sections

look at hardware underneath the decking. Replace any cracked or damaged boards. Shake the railing vigorously to ensure that it isn't loose

Check all other joints, posts and beams. Also, ensure to

- or damaged. Add galvanised lag screws to any loose connections.
 - If there are cracks around any fasteners such as nails or screws, remove the fastener and seal the crack with an exterior-grade adhesive before drilling a new pilot hole
- and adding a galvanised deck screw. Autumn/Fall

Trim any bushes or trees near the decking. They should

Clear away any debris or leaves which may have accumulated on the decking. Move any furniture such as tables or chairs so that the

be at least 12 inches clear of the decking so that moss,

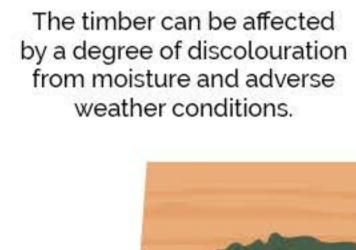
decking doesn't become discoloured. Inspect any gutters or downspouts near the decking so

mould and rot won't develop.

- that moss or debris hasn't accumulated. Take care of any washing and sealing that you may not have got around to doing in spring. It needs to be done
- while temperatures are mild.



WHY IS DECKING MAINTENANCE
SO IMPORTANT?



Boards could become

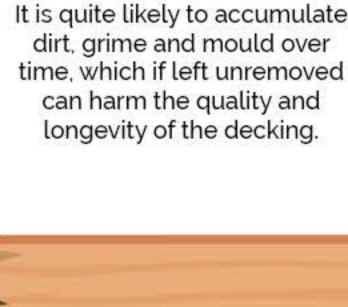
loose over time.

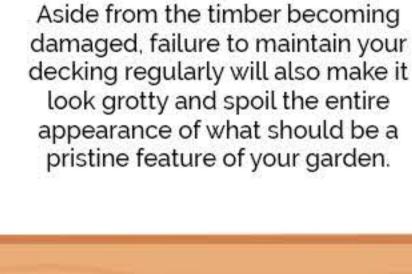
Boards that are loose or

cracked could break if

walked upon, which could

potentially lead to an injury.





If you use a power washer on the decking, don't focus for too long on any spot or hold the nozzle

close to the timber, as the pressure

could damage the timber.

You can avail of a scrubber

attachment for a pressure

washer so that large areas can

be covered more quickly.

USEFUL MAINTENANCE TIPS

When applying deck

cleaner, always wear

protective goggles and

mind your skin, as the

cleaner could contain

harsh chemicals.

Remember to check all around the deck

> boards, including underneath, as this is

where wood rot is

most likely to occur.

If you want the

timber grain to be

clearly visible, buy

a wood stain with a

transparent

application.

Do not pound old nails down if they (or the boards)

are loose. Remove the nails

and replace them with

longer alternatives or

decking screws.

Use a putty knife or laminate scoring tool to remove debris from tight, narrow

spaces such as those

between deck boards.

If stripping a deck with a peeling finish, use a mild, biodegradable deck stripper and test it first on a small,

inconspicuous area.

When treating stained or discoloured areas, choose your cleaning product carefully. Bleach-based products are effective for removing mildew, while acid-based products are more ideal for removing stains and discolouration.

houselogic.com/by-room/yard-patio/deck-care-and-maintenance boral.com/timberflooring/maintenance.asp



REFERENCES

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