

**DISEGNA**® products are created to be long lasting without the need for treatment or specific cleaning systems. **DISEGNA**® decking is **LOW MAINTENANCE**. However, if you want to preserve and prolong the service life of your decking or prevent any unwanted stains, the following instructions will be useful.

## INSTRUCCIONES FOR CLEANING DISEGNA® DECKING

### Cleaning after installation

**DISEGNA**® technological decking is made of natural fibers, virgin high density polyethylene and additives where fibers are inside of the thermoplastic polymer matrix. The product contains approximately 30-35% Polyethylene and additive, and 65-70% recycled natural fibers. This wood fibers (pine), during first months under humidity and solar radiation, undergoes a natural process of photo-oxidation (typical of wood) and create yellowish derivative which remain on decking surface. Because of that we recommend after decking installation and during 2-3 month to clean frequently and with plenty of water the decking surface to remove out of the decking the dust and dirt produced during the decking manufacturing and installation to prevent the formation of water marks on account of dust, dirt and derivative of photo-oxidation. You can use pressure washing machines, always at pressures below 1500 psi and at a distance less than 30 cm from the decking so if you ignore these recommendations your decking installation may be damaged. These stains are typical of Wood Plastic Composite, it's a reversible phenomenon which disappear in time and it doesn't affect the quality of the material and will not be cause of complain.

### Normal cleaning

**DISEGNA**® decking is **LOW MAINTENANCE** and can be washed using just water. If the decking comes into contact with some substance that are likely to leave a stain (drinks, food, etc), it is recommended that they be removed from the decking surface immediately and that this surface be treated according to the nature of the substance.

### Cleaning in semi-protected areas

In semi-protected areas or areas under protection (vegetation, trees, etc) may appears water marks, due to no free flow of water (rain water o hose) on the decking surface. Sometimes, it is normal that from trees falling down resin and it could stain the decking surface. In both cases, you only should clean the surface with plenty of water and brushing the surface in longitudinal sense of the board with a stiff brush to remove the dirt out of the deck.

## Treatment of stains

The most effective and simple way to stop your decking from becoming stained is to remove any element that accidentally falls on it, and which might stain it (food, drinks, lotion, etc).

### Dust and dirt

Organic waste (food, leaves, branches, etc.) tend to rot and encourage the growth of mold and mildew, so to avoid this phenomena we recommend to remove any residual organic from the surface of the deck. Usually, a broom or blower is the best way to remove organic materials scattered like leaves, dust, dirt, etc. If the dirt is embedded, clean it with water and a brush. It is important to rinse your installation with plenty of water and remove the dirty water out of your decking installation to prevent the formation of water stains. You can also use pressure washing machines, always at pressures below 1500 psi and at a distance less than 30 cm from the decking. If you ignore these recommendations your decking installation may be damaged.

### Wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea

The surface can be cleaned with water. If the stain is stubborn, it is possible to use dishwashing detergent. Scrub the stain vigorously, rinse with plenty of water and remove the dirty water out of your decking installation to prevent the formation of water stains.

### Oil, fat or body lotion

Remove the staining product from the decking immediately. Doing this will make cleaning easier later on. Oil-based stains can be removed with the **DISEGNA**<sup>®</sup> Special Technological Decking Cleaner.

### Marks due to burns or blows

As with wood and other materials, any direct contact between the decking and burning materials may cause burn marks (barbecue coals, lit cigarettes, etc). It is recommended that a protective surface be placed over the decking around barbecues, grills or heat sources that produce burning elements.

### Burn marks can be removed by sanding the surface

With a small piece of sandpaper (P60-P80 grain), sand a small section that includes the mark to be removed; sand uniformly and along the grooves. The mark will disappear gradually. This sanding process can also be used to remove some marks caused by blows.

All these suggestions are oriented to improve and prolong the appearance and the useful life of your deck, but they are **not mandatory** under normal conditions of use.

## IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS FOR CLEANING THE DECKING

We recommend not use **DISEGNA**<sup>®</sup> decking in interior areas or areas without UV exposure or wind, because both play an important role in the stabilization of the product.

- As a general rule, it is recommended that the decking be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year with disinfectant soap and a bristle brush, rinsing the surface with plenty of water to avoid the formation of rings.
- The conditions and location of the decking (areas with vegetation or shaded areas with high levels of humidity, etc.) can contribute to the growth of fungus or mould. Therefore, it is advisable to eliminate it by using Salfuman (10-15% HCl concentration) and, with the help of a bristle brush, scrub the surface and rinse with plenty of water to avoid the formation of rings.
- As with any other material such as clothes, upholstery, etc., when a cleaning product is applied to a specific part of the decking, this will not just remove the stain, but also all the dirt and dust deposited in this area. Therefore, the area cleaned will have a lighter tone than the rest of the decking.
- The lighter tone in the area cleaned will homogenise with the rest of the decking's tone in a short period of time, once the decking begins to be used again, with users standing on it and walking over it.
- Make sure that you use protective elements such as gloves, aprons or other protective clothing at all times.
- After using cleaning products, always ensure you rinse with plenty of water and remove the dirty water from the decking in order to avoid the formation of rings around the surface cleaned.
- It is not advisable to use the DISEGNA technological decking indoors or in areas without wind and/or where it is not exposed to UV radiation. This is because rain water and wind play an important role in stabilising the product.

For more information, please contact our Technical Customer Service Department:

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