



WEISS HOMES

A Tradition Of Building Excellence

Preserving Your Deck

A regular maintenance program can improve the appearance of your wood deck and significantly extend its life.

Seal New Decks

All new decks should be sealed a few weeks after the deck has stabilized in its environment. Dirt, mold and algae can build-up on untreated deck surfaces, making them slippery. Weiss Homes recommends sealing or staining your deck annually due to harsh climate conditions we experience in the Midwest. Any local hardware store can help you purchase the materials as many people do this as a “do- it yourself” project.

Inspect Annually

Inspect your deck once a year for loose boards and protruding nails. It should also be thoroughly cleaned and resealed.

Maintaining Your Wooden Deck

The primary causes of wear are moisture and sunlight. Moisture can be trapped on the deck by leaves, debris or items stored on the deck, such as planters. Debris tends to collect in the spaces between deck boards, trapping moisture, which causes decay in the deck framing. The shady underside of the deck is more likely to be damaged by decay. A putty knife, narrow tool or a hardy spray of water from a garden hose can remove the debris from between the deck boards. There are also deck cleaning products available at any local hardware store that are used to assist in the cleaning of wood decks before the sealing or staining process.

There are stains that can restore the original color and keep it looking new. Water repellants or wood preservatives can help maintain a deck’s appearance. Read the manufacturer’s recommendations on these

products for coverage and application methods. These products should be applied with a brush to allow for adequate penetration of the material into the wood. Do not apply these materials in direct hot sunlight, as you want it to soak into the wood instead of evaporating. Reapplication of these materials may be necessary every three or four years, depending on the amount of sun exposure and climate in your area.

The framing beneath the deck should be examined periodically for signs of decay. This is usually indicated by a white or brown growth on the surface of the wood, followed by softness and deterioration. Minor decay can be treated by wire brushing the surface and applying a fungicide such as copper naphthenate (Copper Green) to the area. Probe the wood with a screwdriver to determine if it has weakened.

Most decks are made of pressure treated pine. High-quality pine will last approximately forty years before there is any substantial decay. However, discoloration and splintering can begin after only a few months. For this reason, most people undertake a regular maintenance program. This guide provides an overview of maintenance tips to help you keep your deck looking its best.

