

FACT SHEET

DECKING

Timber decks receive a lot of hard treatment. The flat surface of the timber is exposed directly to the elements, where sunlight and rain take their toll. Small cracks and joints also collect moisture, providing an ideal environment for the growth of mould, rot and insect attack.

Paints and other surface coatings must further survive the continuous shrinking and swelling of the wood as a result of changes in its moisture content. Finally, the surface is subject to the wear and tear of daily use.

Modern decking paints are especially formulated to resist abrasion and to expand and shrink with the timber substrate.

Because of the severe conditions of fully exposed decks a water repellent preservative or a semi-transparent penetrating stain may provide the best finishing solution, even on wood that has been previously treated with preservatives.

The performance of many new water-based wood care products can be superior to their solvent-based equivalents – particularly around durability.

Water-based decking products also release lower amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds into the environment.