

## CARE & FINISH

**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 manufacturer's label. Do not use 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 AMONIA. 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 mildew or algae is detected. Take care to cover and protect adjacent vegetation during use.



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### 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 a 1/8" gap between deck boards.

#### PREDRILL:

Predrill ends to avoid splitting.

