

How To Clean Your Wood or Trex Deck

Cleaning a deck doesn't have to be difficult or time-consuming, but it is essential in making it last. While the steps are simple — remove anything on the deck, sweep, and clean — you will want to be sure you're doing it right.

Trex Composite Deck Cleaner

2 ½ tsp (12 ml) white vinegar or apple cider vinegar
1 ¼ tsp (6 ml) of baking soda
1gallon (3.8 liters) of water

Wood Deck Cleaner

1oz (29 ml) ammonia-free liquid dish soap
1 5/8 cups (473 ml) rubbing alcohol
4 5/8 cups (1.1 liters) oxygen bleach (not chlorine bleach)
1 gallon (3.8 liters) water

What Is The Best Way To Clean Decking

1. Clear Off the Deck

Remove all furniture, plants, and deck décor. Once clear, inspect the decking for warping, discoloration, and spongy boards. Replace any rotted deck boards and tighten any loose screws and fasteners.

2. Sweep the Deck Boards

Over time, debris will accumulate on top of your deck, which you need to remove as it can stain and hold in moisture. Use a putty knife or screwdriver to remove stubborn bits between the boards.

3. Pre-rinse the Deck

Use a hose to rinse any remaining loose debris off the deck. This step allows the deck cleaner to disperse more easily and work more effectively.

4. Apply Deck Cleaner

Pick a deck cleaning solution geared to the kind of deck you have (wood or composite). Read and follow the instructions on the bottle or try a homemade deck cleaner—like the homemade cleaners in the previous section.

5. Rinse the Deck

Rinse all the decking thoroughly so you don't leave behind a film or build-up. Hold the hose about 6-12 inches above the deck's surface and spray a few feet in front of you. The water stream should be strong enough to wash away dirt and debris. Never use high pressure, which can damage your decking and splinter your wood.

