

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEW MATAVERDE® PREMIUM HARDWOOD DECKING AND SIDING**

In addition to its durability and natural resistance to decay, Mataverde® Hardwood decking and siding is a beautiful, all-natural, real wood material. The rich variety of graining and coloration of each piece of decking and siding is as unique as a fingerprint and adds tremendous character to your new exterior hardwood project. Once you have installed your siding or decking boards, you may wish to leave them to weather naturally or enhance the colors and graining with a UV inhibiting finish.

### **LOW MAINTENANCE DECKING / SIDING OPTION:**

If you would like your new hardwood decking or siding to weather naturally to a delicate silvery-gray patina, there is very little that needs to be done after installation; an initial coat of Penofin oil sealer (or similar product) is highly recommended to protect your exterior hardwood from harmful UV rays while it acclimates. Putting a UV inhibiting protective coat on your new hardwood deck initially is an excellent idea for short term and long term satisfaction.

After this, you may simply allow the weather and local environmental conditions to naturally season your hardwood boards. Bear in mind that each piece of wood has unique characteristics and each board (and portions of each board) will weather at different rates. The amount of direct and indirect sunlight, temperature, humidity, moisture and all other conditions of the microclimate of your job site area will factor into the time and shading of your new deck or hardwood siding project.

Naturally weathered hardwood decking surfaces



# Mataverde® *Premium Hardwood Decking and Siding*

## **ROSEWOOD OIL HIGH DENSITY HARDWOOD FINISH:**

If you prefer the rich, natural coloration and graining of the Mataverde® Premium Hardwood Decking and siding to show through, you can apply PENOFIN® Penetrating Oil Finish or a similar product with a UV blocker. These environmentally friendly rosewood oil based products will darken, enrich and enhance the natural colors of hardwoods and offer UV protection to help minimize surface checking as well as providing mildew and mold protection to your hardwood boards.



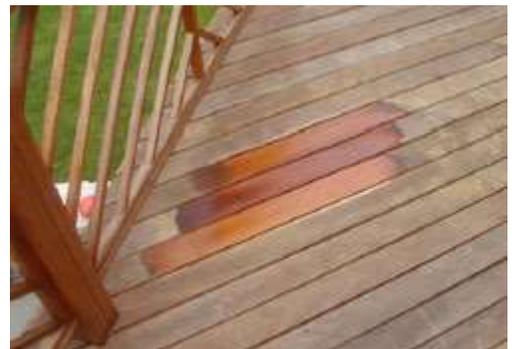
After your initial coat is applied to your decking or siding, an annual maintenance coat will help keep the coloration vibrant and graining variations visible for many years to come. An additional advantage of using an oil finish is that it prevents most common household beverages and foods from penetrating (and possibly staining) your deck surface.

## **OTHER HIGH DENSITY HARDWOOD FINISH OPTIONS:**

There are a multitude of other exterior decking and siding finishes that are now available on the market that are specially formulated for high density exterior hardwoods. Most of these products also contain a waterproofing agent. The length of time these finishes are expected to last vary by manufacturer. For more information use a search engine on the internet for "Ipe decking stains".

## **WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THE FINISH?**

Whether you initially decide on an oil finish or prefer to allow your wood to weather naturally, it's never too late to change your mind. For example, if you decide to put oil finish on a deck that you originally allowed to weather to a gray patina, simply clean and brighten your deck with deck cleaning products or sand off the gray patina and apply a coat of finish.



Alternately, if you originally oiled your hardwood and now wish it to weather naturally, you may use a deck stripping product to remove the oil finish or simply allow the oils to weather out over a few years of weather exposure.

## **KEEPING YOUR DECKING and SIDING LOOKING GREAT:**

No matter what kind of decking material you have on your deck or (wood, metal or synthetic), an annual cleaning is an excellent idea. All of the naturally occurring outdoor elements; molds, pollen, leaves, tree tannins, mildew, dirt, acid rain residue, etc. will settle and accumulate on your wood surface. As molds, mildews and fungus thrive on moisture and a food source to grow, removing this accumulation of debris is a sensible idea on any and all deck surfaces (and many siding surfaces) to keep them sanitary and looking their best.

## **CLEANING:**

For premium hardwood decking and siding, an annual cleaning with warm water, mild dish soap and a *non-metallic* stiff bristle brush will remove most of these uninvited guests. Sweep off any loose debris first with a broom or brush. Then apply the water and dish soap mixture and scrub the remaining debris off. Rinse it off with water when you are finished. This simple solution removes most of the food sources, but it will not kill naturally occurring mold, mildew or fungus spores.

Depending on the microclimate of your job site area, you may have to pay more or less attention to some intruders than others. For example, in dark, shady, damp or tree covered areas, molds and other spores are more likely to flourish than in bright, un-shaded areas. If you have lots of mold, mildews and other spores on your deck, there are several products available to specifically deal with these freeloaders.

While a mixture of household bleach and water is a well known cleaner (and will kill most spores), repetitive usage may cause the deck to bleach out or become blotchy in appearance. For cleaning of your deck, many wood cleaning professionals use deck cleaning products that contain Sodium Percarbonate or Potassium Hydroxide (Pro-Tech Wood Cleaner by Penofin® is one of several options). These oxygenating agents will effectively kill mold spores. The oxygenating power of these chemicals will also bring dirt to the surface, where it can be rinsed off. Next, a true wood professional will 'pH balance' the deck with a slightly acidic deck brightener (Pro-Tech Brightener by Penofin® is one). After this cleaning and pH balancing is complete, your deck is ready to either leave as is to weather naturally or re-seal.

## **PRESSURE WASHING:**

Another alternative method of cleaning is to pressure wash the deck or siding surface. Mataverde® Premium Hardwood is very hard and Ipe, Cumaru, & Garapa are all high density close grained hardwoods that resist deep penetration of molds and mildew. However, to remove built up surface dirt or mold or mildew you may choose to pressure wash your deck. You must use the proper PSI for the species of

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wood you are cleaning. The lowest possible PSI that will remove dirt and debris is recommended. A *maximum of 1200 PSI* is suggested for Mataverde® Hardwoods. Test an inconspicuous area first and be careful to use the wand in even strokes to avoid lap marks. If you are uncomfortable with cleaning or power washing your exterior hardwood yourself, there are a number of professionals listed in <http://directory.pressurenet.net>.

## **SANDING OR STRIPPING:**

At some point in the lifetime of your premium hardwood decking or siding you may want a "fresh start" and a brand new appearance. If you have oiled, stained or sealed your deck in the past, one solution would be to use a stripper to remove this build-up. (Pro-Tech Wood Stripper by PENOFIN® is one). If you choose this method, simply follow the manufacturer's instructions and proceed from there.

Whether you have used a stain or sealer or simply allowed your deck to weather naturally, another alternative method of creating a "like new" deck is to sand the surface with an 80 grit sandpaper. Since Mataverde® Premium decking and siding are high density hardwoods; a light surface sanding should suffice. Your new decking or siding surface will look almost identical to the wood when you first installed it.