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## Decking and T&G Porch Flooring Maintenance Guide



## KEY STEPS FOR ANNUAL DECKING AND T&G PORCH FLOORING MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance starts with proper installation. In order to help prevent surface checking, cupping and discoloration, we require that Nova decking and porch flooring is finished on all sides with an appropriate penetrating oil-based product, prior to installation. Detailed installation guidelines can be found at [novausawood.com](http://novausawood.com)

To restore the wood's original appearance, periodic surface cleaning and reapplication of a penetrating finish are required. The maintenance interval is primarily influenced by factors such as UV exposure, ambient climate conditions (e.g., humidity, temperature fluctuations), target aesthetic (natural graying vs. maintained color), and the frequency and type of preservative or UV-inhibiting treatments applied. A typical maintenance cycle ranges from 12 to 24 months under standard environmental conditions.

### 1. ASSESS YOUR WOOD'S CONDITION

Begin by evaluating how much color your wood has lost and whether debris or stains—like those left by leaves—remain. If the finish is still vibrant, a simple rinse (after pollen season) may suffice. Otherwise, a full recoating is in order. High-end finishes such as ExoShield may allow you to skip annual refinishing and extend your maintenance cycle to every two years.

### 2. UNDERSTAND YOUR PREVIOUS FINISH

Oil-based finishes are generally compatible with other oil-based products, and if you're coating annually, the wood will absorb less product over time. Film-forming finishes (like spar varnish, urethane, or polyurethane) must be sanded completely off.

Water-based finishes with resins can block penetration by oil-based primers, so deep cleaning or sanding is often needed before applying a new coating.

### 3. CLEAN THOROUGHLY

Use a deck cleaner such as 30 Second Cleaner to cut down cleaning time—but note that cleaners alone are not enough. You'll still need pressure washing or sanding to reach bright, fresh wood. Aim to reveal bright, fresh wood before refinishing for the best results.

**\*\* FOR PORCH FLOORING, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STANDING WATER IS REMOVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CLEANING. THIS WILL REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF CUPPING.**

### 4. USE APPROPRIATE CLEANING TOOLS

For hardwoods (e.g., Ipe, Cumaru, Batu, Batu T&G Porch Flooring), you may use higher-pressure washers (around 2,800 PSI) paired with a turbo nozzle.

For softwoods (e.g., pine, cedar, treated lumber), use low-pressure settings with a wide fan nozzle to avoid gouging.

If pressure washing isn't effective, sanding is the next best option.

### 5. ALLOW THOROUGH DRYING BEFORE FINISHING

The wood should be completely dry—inside and out—before applying finish. Under ideal warm, sunny conditions, this might take 3 to 5 days.

### 6. FINISH AND ENJOY

Refinishing, is the rewarding phase where your hard work pays off. Apply the finish (ideally with wiping if that's the manufacturer's recommendation), and follow the product instructions closely. A simple method—like wiping off with a beach towel within 30 minutes of rolling—is effective.