

# TREX® DECKING AND RAILING GENERAL CARE AND CLEANING GUIDE (TRADITIONAL COMPOSITE AND PVC)

All exterior building materials require cleaning. Trex recommends periodic cleaning with soap and water or a commercially available deck cleaner twice a year. This will help maintain the beauty of Trex decking, fencing, railing, and trim.

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Dirt and Debris	Clean deck to remove dirt and debris. Soap and water is all that is needed.
Chalk Lines	Most colored chalks are permanent. For Trex use either baby powder or Irwin Strait-Line®* Dust-Off Marking Chalk, available at <a href="http://Irwin.com">Irwin.com</a>
Visible Printing	The printing on the side of Trex decking boards is required by building codes. With careful installation, most printing can be hidden. Visible printings can be lightened with acetone.
Water Spots, Leaf Staining and Wood Tannins	Tannin leaching occurs naturally in Trex and all wood-based products. Allow for at least 12 weeks of normal weathering. This process may be hastened through the use of a product containing oxalic or phosphoric acid, commonly known as Deck Brightener.**
Ice and Snow	Calcium chloride or rock salt, available in many home centers, will melt ice on Trex decking. Rinse off when first practical. Use caution when removing snow or ice with a snow shovel, and <b>NEVER</b> use a metal snow shovel on a Trex deck. A shovel may scratch the deck, which is <b>not covered under warranty</b> .
Scuffs and Abrasions	Scuffs and abrasions can fade or disappear naturally after 12 – 16 weeks of weathering. This can be accelerated with a product containing oxalic or phosphoric acid, also known as Deck Brightener.**
Rust Stains, Ground-In Dirt and Grime and Pigment Staining	Use a cleaning product containing oxalic or phosphoric acid, also known as Deck Brightener, to lighten or remove rust or dirt. Product may need to sit on the stain for 10 – 15 minutes before rinsing.**
Oil, Grease and Food	Rinse the stain with hot water as soon as possible. Use Pour-N-Restore®*** ( <a href="http://pour-n-restore.com">pour-n-restore.com</a> ) as directed for any remaining stain. (Test in small area first as Pour-N-Restore may remove some of the colorant from the decking surface.)
Mold and Mildew	Semi-annual (spring and fall) cleaning of your deck is important to prevent buildup of pollen and other debris that can support the growth of mold. Refer to Mold Technical Bulletin for specific cleaning recommendations.** <b>NOTE: Trex Escapes® can be effectively cleaned by using a hose and warm, soapy water with a soft bristle brush.</b>
Using a Pressure Washer	Trex does not recommend the use of a pressure washer with standard composite products. Use of a pressure washer can damage the decking surface and <b>will void the warranty with respect to any condition caused by the pressure washing.</b>
Sanding	Trex does not recommend sanding. Sanding will change the appearance of the surface of Trex material and <b>will void the warranty with respect to any condition caused by the sanding.</b>
Disposal	Trex decking and railing products should be disposed with normal construction debris or household waste. <b>DO NOT burn Trex products.</b>

\*Strait-Line® is a registered trademark of Irwin Industrial Tool Company.

\*\*Use of products containing bleach or acid will lighten the surface of Trex. Use in an inconspicuous area to determine whether you like the effect. Neither product will affect the structural integrity of Trex.

\*\*\*Pour-N-Restore® is a registered trademark of Edgewater Industries.

**NOTE: Trex does not recommend the placement of rubber or vinyl materials such as those in grill mats, rubber backed welcome mats, vinyl or PVC potted containers, etc., on the surface of Trex® Escapes for extended periods of time. Over time, additives in the rubber and PVC products have a tendency to migrate from these materials to Escapes, resulting in discoloration of the surface.**