

General Care and Maintenance

Important Considerations

- Ensure ventilation behind boards and required spacing between boards is maintained.
- Keep debris out of gaps between the cladding.
- Provide 6-in. separation between cladding and grade, wet mulch, vegetation, etc.
- Eliminate any conditions of Fiberon® cladding in contact with standing water.
- Avoid contact between cladding and construction debris, masonry, dirt, gravel and organic materials during and post construction.
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions and splash guards away from the structure.
- Position all vents away from surface of cladding.
- Clean your cladding board as needed. Twice each year is recommended.
- Use extreme caution with pressure washers. Use only at pressures less than 3,000 psi (20684.3kPa), with a wide fan or oscillating tip and not closer than 10 in. (25 cm) from cladding surface.
- Recommended mold cleaners may be used as directed.

Ventilation

To retain optimal drainage plane performance, periodically inspect all horizontal and vertical gaps for debris. Address issues created by ice and windblown snow.

Clean Your Siding

Often, a brush or a blower will work better than a hose for removing organic materials. For general cleaning, use soap and water or mild household cleaners.

Dirt and Grime

Dislodge accumulated dirt with a broom or blower. For stubborn dirt, use soap and water and a non-metal scrub brush.

Special Considerations

Oil and Grease Stains

Always avoid contact with grease and oil as a preventative measure against potential staining. Should grease or oil spills occur, speedy clean-up is best. To clean grease and oil stains that soap and water cannot remove, some all-purpose cleaners such as Fantastik® will cut through grease and grime without discoloration. Or, use a commercial cladding or deck cleaner formulated specifically for use on composites.

Construction Chalk

Many construction chalk colors are intended to resist removal. Test chalk for ease of removal prior to use. If chalk lines / stains persist, contact the chalk manufacturer for cleaning instructions.

Masonry Construction

It is important to protect Fiberon® cladding from masonry / mortar / grout dust during and post construction. Due to electrostatic properties of those materials, a white or hazy residue from mineral deposits may result. Efflorescence can also leach minerals out of stone, grout and masonry materials and, after water evaporates, leave mineral deposits behind. To minimize this effect during masonry construction, keep materials dry and allow masonry and cement to cure properly. This can be prevented by complete and secure coverage of the cladding surface area during the construction phase, or installation of the cladding after the masonry construction phase.

Minerals from soils in certain arid and mountainous environments can also cause a hazing affect when deposited on the cladding surface. For particulates deposited via windblown minerals or leaching, more frequent periodic cleaning may be required to maintain visual attractiveness.

Mold and Mildew

Mold and mildew growth occur due to common environmental conditions. Tiny and lightweight, mold spores travel easily through the air and are deposited on surfaces, where, when conditions are favorable, they establish colonies on decaying organic material such as windblown pollen and landscaping debris.

Climate conditions vary by region. Where ideal mold colonization conditions exist, such as in areas with high pollen counts and humidity, or where mold and mildew have already colonized other inorganic surfaces, more periodic cleaning may be required. Proactive removal of organic materials that provide a food source for mold development is recommended for control or prevention.

If mold is present, there are many commercial products available for cleaning. For best results, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and use cleaners within their stated shelf life. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur. Never mix bleach and acids.

We recommend the following commercial cleaners.

- Collier Manufacturing, LLC 30-Seconds® Outdoor Cleaner
- Collier Manufacturing, LLC 30-Seconds® Spray & Walk Away

Collier-branded cleaners are heavy-duty, mildly alkaline, chlorinated mold and mildew removers / cleaners that are biodegradable once rinsed into the soil. Both have been tested and perform very well in removing mold and mildew and retarding its return.

For more information on cleaning mold and mildew, see Fiberon Technical Bulletin #13 at this link: fiberondecking.com/resources/literature.

Low-E Glass / Reflected Heat

Spectrally selective coatings, such as low-emissivity glass, are designed to prevent heat gain inside the house by reflecting sunlight outward. With the increased thermal efficiency of windows and doors with large glass surfaces, the potential of reflected light has increased dramatically. Under the right seasonal conditions, the potential to create surface temperatures far above normal environmental conditions may occur. This reflected and concentrated sunlight can create temperatures high enough to cause discoloration, warping, surface distortion and harm a range of building materials, including decking, cladding and landscaping.

If you have questions on how to reduce this risk, contact the manufacturer of the product for suggestions on how to reduce or eliminate the reflected heat.

Grills, Fire Features and Fire Pits

Grills should be assessed as to their heat radiance and located a safe distance from all building materials, including decking and cladding. Not all grills are the same, and the amount of heat produced may require owners to reassess grill placement.

Fire features and fire pits are increasingly popular in outdoor living environments. Fire can damage many building products, including decking and cladding. Proper caution should be taken when designing, installing and using these features to ensure damage does not result.

Static

Dry or windy environments may create a temporary condition of static electricity, which will vary depending on climate and site conditions. Heat pumps and dryer vents that are close to, or pointed toward the cladding, can also generate static electricity on the material. A simple rinsing with water will remove a static charge.

For the most up-to-date cladding care and maintenance information, visit cladding.fiberondecking.com.



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