

We want you to be able to enjoy the many benefits of a Flexiteek deck long into the future, so we have created this comprehensive care and maintenance guide to help you.

Flexiteek decking has been designed to require minimal maintenance, leaving you more time to enjoy your boating! With this in mind, we've outlined how simple maintenance can help to prolong the life of your beautiful new deck.

If you have any questions regarding the maintenance of your Flexiteek deck, please get in touch with your distributor.

Find your local distributor at [www.flexiteek.com/find-a-distributor/](http://www.flexiteek.com/find-a-distributor/).

### WHAT'S COVERED IN THIS CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE?

Your Flexiteek deck is easy to keep clean and requires far less general maintenance than a typical teak or hardwood deck.

We start with an introduction to our five steps to a clean deck, providing clear guidance on using cleaning chemicals.

### THE FIVE STEPS TO A CLEAN DECK

By following these five simple care steps we believe your Flexiteek deck will keep its good looks for longer.

Our five step care program is designed to provide an appropriate level of intervention for every problem.



### STEP 1 : USE CLEAN FRESH WATER

Daily life on your boat will inevitably result in general spillages involving foods such as ketchup and drinks like red wine, that if left can prove more time consuming to remove.

So, we suggest all spills are cleaned promptly to save you time later. Here is what to do:

- Firstly absorb up as much liquid from the spill as you can using a cloth.
- Then use warm water to clean, following the grain rather than wiping the offending stain around in swirls.
- If it's a more stubborn stain, we suggest methylated spirit which is pH-neutral or even baby wipes but would suggest bio-degradable brands only.
- Rinse and wipe up any excess water.

If this simple intervention hasn't removed the stain, please jump to step two.

## STEP 2 : DEALING WITH DIFFICULT SPILLAGES

Sometimes stains and spills can require a little more effort. Especially things like oil, diesel and petrol.

We'd suggest following these simple ideas using a pH-neutral cleaning detergent like our recommended Wash and Care product, diluted with water and applied to the area with the stubborn stain.

- Leave the diluted pH-neutral detergent to sink into the affected area of Flexiteek for no more than a few minutes. This works well for more difficult spills like fuel or oil.
- This approach will help to 'lift out' the stain.
- Rinse and wipe away any excess water and detergent with a clean cloth.

If the stain persists please refer to step 3.

## STEP 3 : USING A SCOTCH BRITE PAD

Scotch Brite Pads are widely available from good retail stores and online from places like Amazon. This everyday cleaning aid can work wonders on more stubborn stains. Please ensure your deck is dry before scrubbing, or starting with water or a pH-neutral cleaner.

Here is how we'd suggest using a Scotch Brite Pad on your Flexiteek deck:

- Use water or a clear pH-neutral cleaner diluted with water.
- Using your Scotch Brite Pad, scrub along the affected deck area in line with the Flexiteek grain.
- Ensure you are careful when scrubbing along caulking. Do not use a Scotch Brite Pad on soft caulking areas around the edge of the deck.

This simple solution should remove most everyday stains but if it's proving difficult, we suggest using step 4.

## STEP 4 : USING A PRESSURE WASHER

Pressure washing (also known as Jet Washing) can be a great way to get a deep clean with less of the "scrub". Here are some important considerations before starting.

- Most domestic pressure washers can be used. But we recommend a typical working height of around 20cm. Your pressure washer should be able to provide a maximum pressure of 135 bar. Pressure washers of this standard will be readily available in most equipment shops and online.
- Start from the top of the affected area and work along the planks in the direction of the grain for best results.
- Ensure you remove any excess or standing water from the deck using a clean cloth, broom or squeegee.

## STEP 5 : SAND THE AFFECTED AREA

### SANDING SMALL AREAS

If a stubborn stain persists you can sand a small area using 60 grit sandpaper (available from any hardware store) along the Flexiteek grain. Rinse with fresh water and then wipe up any excess water.

### RESTORING YOUR DECKS APPEARANCE

Your Flexiteek deck may gradually darken or lighten with age and may lose some of its graining structure, but don't worry! This is easily rectified as Flexiteek can be sanded like a teak deck. Use 60 grit sandpaper and

sand in line with the grain to bring back the colour and the grain. Your deck will look like new in no time.

**PROFESSIONAL SANDING**

Do not use power sanders on Flexiteek. Sanding larger areas is a specialist job and requires a trained Flexiteek professional to do this. Your Flexiteek distributor is qualified to offer a sanding service. We'd always suggest using a Flexiteek expert to have this service done for you.

**IMPORTANT CLEANING CONSIDERATIONS**

Before you use a cleaner on your deck we strongly recommend you review these important considerations before you get started. You can also check which cleaners are prohibited as shown on our list.

**USE A pH-NEUTRAL CLEANER**

The most important consideration with any deck cleaner is to ensure it is a pH-neutral (pH7) product. All pH-neutral products need to be used in temperatures below 30 degrees.

**CLEANING QUICK TIPS**

- Do not allow any cleaners used anywhere on your boat to evaporate on the surface of your Flexiteek deck.
- Check the contents and ingredients of the cleaner you use as it may contain chemicals, solvents and acids that are aggressive and may damage Flexiteek, especially in hotter temperatures.
- Always wash your deck with plenty of freshwater if you think any residue has contaminated the surface.
- Follow the instructions on the cleaner you use.
- Be aware that the temperature for using some products refers to the temperature of the deck rather than the air.

**CLEANING PRODUCTS NOT TO USE**

Do not apply any exterior wood cleaners, teak oils, deck brightening chemicals, or any other product designed for use on a teak or a wooden deck.

Do not use any acids, such as oxalis, phosphoric, sulphuric, hydrochloride, acetic or citric, to name a few of the ones found in cleaning solutions. Also, be wary of general deck cleaners offered in chandleries, many of which contain a variety of ingredients which may bleach or discolour your Flexiteek deck, even when diluted correctly.

By following this guidance you will avoid any impact to your Flexiteek Material Guarantee.

We've worked hard to identify cleaners that can be harmful to your Flexiteek deck. We ask you to avoid the use of any on the list below because they contain a high pH and/or harmful chemicals. A simple idea is to check your cleaner is pH-neutral first.

Please remember that the use of incorrect cleaners will void the Flexiteek Material Guarantee.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list and it is the owners responsibility to check that the cleaning product is pH-neutral (pH7) .

|                                            |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| ARTIFICIAL SOLVENTS                        | NATURAL SOLVENTS                            |
| ARMOR ALL WASH AND WAX                     | STRONG ALKALIS                              |
| AWLGRIP - AWLWASH                          | NANO WASH BY NANOTECH                       |
| CITRA-SOLVE                                | ORPINE CLEANING PRODUCTS                    |
| CSM BY ORLICHEM                            | SIMPLE GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS              |
| DAWN WASHING LIQUID                        | STARBRITE CLEANING PRODUCTS                 |
| CREAM CLEANERS (E.G CIF)                   | MEGUIARS CLEANING PRODUCTS                  |
| BLEACH CLEANERS & SPRAYS                   | CHEMICALS                                   |
| CLEANERS CONTAINING SODIUM LAURYL SULPHATE | DECK CLEANER BY THE NATURAL WAY OF CLEANING |

## RECOMMENDED CLEANING SOLUTION

We realise that our list of harmful cleaners is long, so we've worked with trusted producers in Europe and the UK and can recommend cleaning products 'Wash and Care' and 'Deck Buddy'.

You can buy these cleaners from your Flexiteek Distributor.

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## PROTECTING YOUR DECK

Your day-to-day activity on your Flexiteek deck will be varied which could present challenges that could cause damage.

Here are some important considerations to protect your deck further:

### SHOES

Do not wear high-heeled shoes and be mindful that many shoe types with rubber or plastic soles can leave scuff marks.

### HOT OBJECTS

Do not place hot objects, pans and BBQs directly on your Flexiteek deck, as these will mark the surface and could cause permanent damage.

### HEAVY OR POINTED OBJECTS

Do not place heavy objects with narrow or pointed legs, such as furniture, on your Flexiteek deck without a pad or coaster underneath. Such objects will leave small indentations or darker marks on the deck or could cause permanent damage.

### MOVING OBJECTS ON YOUR DECK

Try to avoid dragging objects across the deck as this may cause marking, which could need to be sanded out. If this does occur, try using a Scotch-Brite pad in line with the grain.

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If you have questions about your Flexiteek deck, we'd suggest referring to our website FAQ section for answers that are available 24/7. If you are unable to find a response, please get in touch with your Flexiteek distributor.