



Getting Started with Osmo Outdoors

A simple guide to preparing and finishing timber decking and outdoor furniture.

Exterior timber needs to weather before it will take a finish, and the right oil applied thinly makes all the difference in NZ's strong UV. Follow these three steps for a beautiful first result on decking, cladding, pergolas or garden furniture.

1

PREPARE

Let new timber weather, then prep the surface

New timber needs to weather before it will accept a finish — natural tannins and oils need to leach out first. Allow **4-6 weeks for softwoods** and **8-12 weeks for hardwoods** on decking (3-4 weeks for softwood furniture); dense species like Kwila or Spotted Gum benefit from a solvent wipe-down before oiling. If refinishing, sand away any old varnish or film-forming finish completely, and wipe recycled timber with Brush Cleaner and Thinner. Grey, weathered timber responds well to Wood Reviver Power-Gel; if it's been grey for years, sanding (80-120 grit) works better. Let the surface dry at least 24 hours, with timber moisture under 18%, before coating.

2

APPLY

Apply thin coats of the right oil

Use Osmo Decking-Oil for decks, cladding and pergolas, or Garden Furniture Oil for outdoor furniture. A pigmented tone lasts far longer than clear in NZ sun — clear finishes left in full exposure can fade within 2-3 months. Apply thinly and evenly with the grain using the Osmo Decking Brush (decks) or a bristle brush, applicator fleece or lint-free cloth (furniture) — "less is best." Two coats is the maximum for hardwoods, with the first fully dry before the second; thirsty softwoods can take a thin third top-up coat if the finish looks patchy. Add Anti-Slip Decking Oil to stairs or areas that need extra grip.

3

MAINTAIN

Clean regularly, recoat before it fades

Clean decks with Osmo Decking Cleaner (or Wood Reviver Power-Gel if greyed); clean furniture with Osmo Wash and Care, a pH-neutral detergent, and a scrubbing brush. Take care with runoff near lawns and garden beds. Inspect every few months — decks typically need a fresh coat every 6 months to 2 years depending on exposure, once the colour has faded and the grain shows through; furniture usually just needs a single coat before it starts to grey. Small marks can be cleaned and spot-touched-up any time, without sanding the whole surface.

A FEW THINGS TO AVOID

- **Coating timber that hasn't weathered or is still damp.** Above 18% moisture, the oil won't bind and will simply wash or burn off.
- **Over-applying.** A heavy, saturated coat can build a film and peel — thin coats only.
- **Sanding finer than 120 grit.** It closes the timber's grain and stops the oil penetrating.
- **Choosing a clear finish for full NZ sun.** It will fade within months; a pigmented oil lasts far longer.



Caring for Your Exterior Timber

For decking, cladding, fences, pergolas and garden furniture finished with Osmo Decking-Oil, Natural Oil Woodstain or Garden Furniture Oil.

Exterior timber faces sun, rain and everyday wear that interior surfaces never see, so it needs a little more attention to stay protected. Osmo's natural oils are breathable and microporous — they protect from within rather than sitting on top as a plastic film, so timber can be cleaned, revived and refreshed indefinitely without sanding back to bare wood. Follow this simple three-step routine to keep it looking its best. **Always test any new product in an inconspicuous area first.**

1**ROUTINE CARE**

Clean with Osmo Decking Cleaner

A few times a year, or when dirt, algae or moss builds up

Sweep away loose debris and leaves first — trapped moisture is what encourages moss and algae. Dilute Osmo Decking Cleaner in water (mixing ratio depends on how dirty the surface is, from 1:25 up to 1:1) and scrub along the wood grain with a stiff-bristled brush, such as the Osmo Decking Cleaning Brush.

- Always work with the grain, not across it.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water afterwards — leftover residue can affect future coats.

2**RESTORING WEATHERED TIMBER**

Revive greyed timber with Osmo Wood Reviver Power-Gel

As needed, for timber that has turned grey or silver from sun and weather

UV exposure gradually breaks down timber's natural colour, leaving a weathered grey look. Wood Reviver Power-Gel is a non-drip gel that restores the wood's natural tone before recoating. Apply generously, leave to work, then scrub with a stiff brush and rinse clean. Allow the timber to dry fully (at least 24 hours) before applying any oil.

3**LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE**

Re-oil with Decking-Oil or Garden Furniture Oil

Every 1-2 years, depending on sun and weather exposure

Once clean and completely dry, protect timber with a fresh coat of oil. Use Osmo Decking-Oil for decks, cladding, fences and pergolas, or Osmo Garden Furniture Oil for outdoor furniture. Apply thin, even coats along the grain in dry weather, allowing each coat to dry before the next (typically two coats, around 12 hours drying each). No sanding required between coats.

WHAT TO AVOID

- **No high-pressure washing.** Aggressive pressure washers can strip fibres and roughen the surface — use Decking Cleaner and a stiff brush instead.
- **No coating in direct sun, rain or on damp timber.** Oil needs a dry surface and moderate temperatures to cure properly.
- **No bleach or harsh chemical cleaners.** Use only Osmo Decking Cleaner or Wood Reviver Power-Gel.
- **No walking on freshly coated surfaces.** Allow the full drying time on the product label before use.