



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.