

Now that you've made the decision to expand your home experiences with new outdoor flooring from KANDY, the best way to protect your investment is through regular cleaning and maintenance.

How much maintenance to do, how often, and how much cleaning is a very personal decision. What works for you may be quite different from what works for someone else.

To keep your KANDY Outdoor Flooring clean, which will help it continue to look and feel spectacular under your feet, here are a two simple tips that can apply to KANDY's full range of product offerings:

- ◆ Spot-clean grease, spills and stains immediately, with warm soapy water or light detergent (see below) and if needed rub or scrub with a soft brush. If your outdoor floor product has a grain, it's a good idea to rub or scrub *with* the grain, not against it.
- ◆ Periodically clean the entire surface of your outdoor flooring. This will enhance your enjoyment of your new outdoor space and can protect against mold, mildew or dirt buildup.

General Cleaning Instructions

For Canadian Collection, Granite, Composites and Exotic Hardwood.

- ◆ Sweep or vacuum the outdoor flooring area clean of all debris and dirt. Use a putty knife to dislodge any debris between the slats as you sweep.
- ◆ Spray or rinse the balcony down with water. If you are able to use a hose without disturbing neighbours and it won't break your strata, condo, or HOA rules then this is a good option. Otherwise, dip a push broom, or other firm but non-abrasive floor mop, into warm water and rub to moisten the surface. This should remove any loose dust and debris remaining after you vacuum or sweep.



- ◆ Mix a cleaning solution of your choice (a product like Murphy's Wood Soap for our hardwood, any other non-corrosive, non-abrasive cleaning product for all others) with water in a bucket. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the proper ratio. Test a small corner of the balcony with the cleansing solution first to be sure it is compatible with your product.
- ◆ Dip your push broom into the bucket and gently scrub the cleaning solution into the surface. Start at the far corners of the balcony and work your way toward the doorway. For areas that don't easily come clean, dip a nylon scrub brush into the cleaning solution and scrub it by hand, being careful not to scratch the surface.
- ◆ Rinse the balcony with water, from a hose if you can or with clean water and your push broom, being careful to completely remove the cleaning solution, and allow the floor to dry.

Granite

Granite is very porous and therefore susceptible to staining. For this reason, the granite comes pre-sealed from the factory. Over time the sealant will be worn off by the elements and you will benefit from a periodic resealing to avoid staining. There are several options available on the market such as Aquamix or Sealer's Choice Gold. Simply follow the instructions on the label of the product you choose.

Cleaning Exotic Hardwoods Before Applying Protective Coating

Follow the general cleaning instructions from above. Prior to applying any protective coating, you should ensure that all stains including grease or oils are removed entirely and that the surface has dried completely. Allow 2-8 hours drying time depending on sun exposure and temperature. The more exposure and the higher the temperature, the quicker it will dry.

- ◆ KANDY recommends using high quality products to protect your outdoor flooring, and there are a number of them available with new ones coming on the market all the time.



Additional Exotic Hardwood Facts

Fading

- ◆ It's important to know that fading is normal and expected.
- ◆ How much fading you experience depends on what type of exposure your outdoor floor has (south-facing, north-facing, etcetera) and whether it is covered. Condo balconies often are partially covered due to the balcony above. If the exposure is uneven, then the fading will reflect the exposure.
- ◆ Rest assured that fading does NOT represent deterioration of the wood's structural integrity. It's just the colour fading due to the sun's UV rays. Application of an oil treatment without UV protection will rehydrate the wood, replenishing its natural stores of fatty resins, but oils don't generally contain strong UV protectants on their own and therefore will not guard against fading. It will, however, depending on the brand, bring back at least some of the original lustre on application.
- ◆ Without a periodic application of UV Protective your wood will, over time, fade to a silver-grey patina.
- ◆ UV protective coatings contain at least a little tinting (it is the iron oxide that provides the UV protection) so a little of the colour that comes back will be from the protective coating. But the process actually coaxes the natural, original colours out of the wood.
- ◆ Some people prefer to watch the wood's natural fading journey and as such choose not to apply a UV protective coating. Others don't mind a little work every year to keep the colour as close to when first installed. It's up to you.



Lifespan

- ◆ KANDY's exotic hardwoods will give you decades of enjoyment.
 - ◆ Exotic hardwoods have the longest lifespan of all the wood choices for outdoor decking materials.
 - ◆ Without UV protective coating treatment, these woods maintain their structural integrity and can last between 25 and 50 years, depending on the specific type of wood, environmental exposure, and under normal wear and tear conditions.
 - ◆ A little TLC will keep your wood floor looking spectacular too.
 - ◆ We do not recommend the use of stains or paints that have not been formulated specifically for exotic hardwood.
 - ◆ Density, hardness and natural oil content result in a low absorption rate that can lead to flaking, peeling or mottling in as little as a year after application of the wrong type of sealant or stain.
 - ◆ Protective coating designed specifically for hardwoods are highly recommended.

For the best of both worlds, consider KANDY's full-service maintenance program. Ask us for more information.

*Don't want the work of this maintenance, but want the results?
CALL US TODAY and ask about our "MAINTENANCE PROGRAM"*

