

Deck Maintenance Guide

This playbook provides a detailed process for maintaining a deck through cleaning, repairing, and sealing. The goal is to prolong the deck's lifespan and improve its aesthetic appeal.

Step 1: **Preparation**

Clear the deck. Remove all furniture, grills, and other items from the surface to ensure unobstructed access.

Step 2: **Cleaning**

Sweep the deck. Use a broom to remove all debris from the deck's surface, including leaves, dirt, and twigs.

Step 3: **Washing**

Wash the deck. Use a deck cleaner and follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply it. Scrub the surface with a brush or use a pressure washer set to the appropriate psi to avoid damage.

Step 4: **Inspection**

Examine the deck for damage. Look for signs of rot, splintering, or nail pops, and mark these areas with chalk or masking tape.

Step 5: **Repairing**

Perform repairs. Replace damaged boards, hammer in popped nails or replace with deck screws, and sand areas with splinters.

Step 6: **Sanding**

Sand the deck. Use an orbital sander or hand sand any rough spots to create a smooth surface, especially if there was previous staining or sealing.

Step 7: **Sealing**

Apply sealant. Choose a deck sealer suitable for your climate and wood type. Apply with a brush, roller, or sprayer, ensuring even coverage and following the sealant manufacturer's guidelines.

Step 8: **Drying**

Allow the deck to dry. Wait for the recommended time before replacing furniture and allowing foot traffic to ensure the sealant cures properly.

General Notes

Weather

Ensure to check the weather forecast before beginning. It's important to have several dry days for cleaning and sealing processes.

Safety

When sanding or applying chemicals like cleaners and sealants, wear appropriate safety gear such as gloves, masks, and goggles.