

# APEX® CLEAN AND CARE GUIDE



**Apex**®

### Apex® Cleaning and Care Guide

Eva-Last® is truly designed for easy living. That's why, unlike natural wood, Apex® co-extruded composite boards are ultra-low maintenance, easy to care for and requires no costly staining, sealing or varnishing, all whilst preserving the environment. All exterior building materials require some form of cleaning; all your Apex® boards needs to have a long, beautiful life and to keeps its 'just-installed-good-looks' is an occasional sweep with soapy water and a gentle power wash.



Eva-Last® Apex® anti-microbial properties also make it germ resistant and completely hygienic for the whole family. Our Eva-Last® experts are here to help you through every stage of owning and caring for an Apex® boards. For assistance please submit an enquiry at [www.eva-last.com](http://www.eva-last.com)

### Cleaning your boards

What you will need



\* Eva-Last®  
deck board cleaner



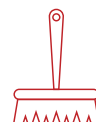
Water



Bucket



Sponge



Hard-bristled broom



A high pressure hose  
with fan tip

#### STEP 1:

Apply soapy water to your boards with a sponge.

#### STEP 2:

Sweep the liquid over your boards using the hard-bristled broom, making sure to remove all dirt and residue from the gaps between the decking boards. Sweeping in the direction of the grain is best.

#### STEP 3:

If residue and/or dirt are still evident on your boards, a high pressure hose is very effective in removing stubborn and unavoidable organic waste.

**NB:** Use a high pressure hose with a wide fan tip at pressures under 1500 psi. Remember to keep the hose at least 300 mm away from the surface when spraying.

For best results, high pressure hose your boards whilst simultaneously brushing it with a hard-bristled broom and soapy water. We recommend pressure washing your boards once a month to keep it looking clean and cared for.

Please exercise extreme caution as pressure washing can damage your Apex® boards if done incorrectly. If you notice any changes to the surface of your boards, stop immediately and contact Eva-Last®

\*Do not use standard composite deck cleaners on Apex®.

### General care

- Wash Apex® boards periodically using standard household cleaners.
- Strong detergents, oxidisers and concentrated mineral acids, aromatic and/or halogenated hydrocarbons, esters, ethers, and ketones should be avoided.
- Water, aqueous salt solutions, detergent solutions, dilute acids and alkalis are acceptable.
- To ensure that the cleaner will not damage the cap, test a small patch of boards or a scrap piece of Apex® material before use. See Appendix A for an Apex® chemical compatibility table.
- Do not use standard composite boards cleaners on Apex®.
- Clean up spills as soon as is possible to prevent them from becoming stains.
- Certain chemicals in insect sprays, sunblock's, oils from certain plants, and undiluted chlorine are some common materials that may come in contact with your boards and are not compatible with the ASA cap. Refer to Appendix A for a more comprehensive list. Prevent these materials from interacting with the Apex® boards.
- Items such as rubber mats and garden hoses may leach esters, which may affect the surface of the Apex® boards over time, care should be taken to prevent prolonged exposure.
- Periodically move, or remove, furniture, door mats, planters and other accessories to avoid differential weathering.
- PVC glues, cement, paint, etc. may damage and discolour the surface of the boards. To prevent this from occurring, install Apex® after all masonry and painting work has been completed on site.
- A toilet bowl cleaner, or similar bristled brush, can be used to remove rust, or similar, stains.
- For particularly stubborn stains, the surface can be gently sanded. This naturally removes material from the protective cap and should be avoided wherever possible, as it may affect the surface of the board.
- Mineral deposits that occur as a result of the evaporation of solutions with high salt contents can leave white residues on a boards surface. The primary cause(s) of this is due to the water quality and/or surrounding environment. One should avoid allowing water with a high mineral content to pool on the deck boards where possible. These residues can be cleaned with the methods prescribed above. For any further assistance please contact us at [info@eva-last.com](mailto:info@eva-last.com)

### Ice and snow

- Typical materials used to clean ice and snow from surfaces that contain calcium chloride and/or sodium chloride may be used on Apex® boards. As discussed above, these may leave a white residue on the deck. These can, however, be cleaned with the methods prescribed above.
- Do not use metal shovels or other sharp objects on the Apex® surface. Use a plastic shovel and rounded/beveled tools when scrapping off ice or similar.
- Note that surface slip resistance will be reduced with ice, snow or similar; and care should be taken on these occasions.

### Static charge

- The development of static charge between two differing materials in contact (referred to as the triboelectric effect) is a naturally occurring phenomenon. The strength of the charge depends on the relative positions of the materials on the triboelectric series and the environment they are installed in. Materials with greater polarity that are in a dry and low humidity environment will have a stronger charge upon separation of the two materials.
- Static charge buildup can be reduced by grounding the boards structure and/or increasing the humidity of the environment. Static discharge can be avoided in particular areas (for example, access points) with the placement of static control grounding mats.



### Maintenance

- Apex<sup>®</sup> is a low maintenance material and only requires periodic cleaning.
- In extraordinary circumstances where stains take place, use the prescribed methods above to remove stains.
- A regular maintenance program for the deck and its components can prolong the combined life span of the boards.
- Regularly inspect and conduct proactive maintenance to boards structures and fasteners.
- Before installing the boards and trim, conduct a detailed inspection of areas that will have limited accessibility once boards and/or trim are installed and ensure that areas of concern are adequately treated.
- Pay attention to areas at risk of corrosion and ensure that all surfaces are appropriately coated.
- Specify materials in accordance with the environmental conditions so that the life of your deck structure at least matches the life of the Apex<sup>®</sup> boards materials.
- Structural materials such as treated timber can be purchased in accordance with atmospheric conditions.
- Metal structures should be galvanised and treated for atmospheric conditions. Additional layers of protective paint can be applied to extend the life of a galvanised structure and periodic maintenance can extend the life of a protective paint barrier.
- Rust spots should be treated as and when they occur to avoid having to replace a metal structure prematurely.
- Fasteners used in structural applications should be painted over before boards is applied to prolong their life.
- Fasteners should be specified for the environment in which they are installed.
- Cut edges of structures (treated timber or galvanised metal) should be treated and sealed once again before boards is installed.



### Trouble shooting

PROBLEM	EVA-LAST® SOLUTION
General cleaning	Dry sweep weekly, wash with warm soapy water & a sponge.
Mould & mildew removal	Apply warm, soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.
Oil & grease stains	Oil, grease and food spills must be removed as quickly as possible. Apply warm soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.
Rust stains	Apply warm, soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.
Construction marks	Rub a little alcohol on the affected area. Once the alcohol has removed the mark, the area will need to be scrubbed down with soapy water to prevent any long term damage as the cap may be affected by alcohol".
Minor scuff marks	Apply warm, soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.
Weathering	Eva-Last® products will weather to a natural matt finish over time. Dry sweep and wash with warm soapy water to remove dirt and grime.
Bird droppings	Apply warm, soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.
Ice removal	Allow ice to melt then wipe away. Calcium chloride or rock salt work well in melting ice. A buildup of calcium chloride or rock salt may occur leaving a white residue. This can be easily removed with warm soapy water and a soft non-metal brush or hard bristled broom. Never use metal objects, such as a metal shovel to remove ice or snow from Apex® boards.
Heat sources and fire	Bamboo-plastic composite products may retain heat when situated close to heat and fire sources. Proper caution should be taken when installing Apex® near a heat source or open flame, to ensure that no damage may occur. <b>Note:</b> Apex® core contains PVC which will emit hazardous fumes if ignited.
Rubber/vinyl/latex mats	Rubber mats such as welcome or grill mats with rubber or latex backing can leave marks on your boards. These marks can be removed with soapy water; however it is best to use vinyl-backed mats or colourfast woven rugs to avoid any marks.
Construction chalk	Coloured chalk often used in construction, can leave permanent marks on most surfaces. Where possible, avoid the use of such chalk on Apex® boards or use alternatives such as white chalk or baby powder.
Tape marks	Apply warm, soapy water with a sponge, then brush with a hard-bristled broom or spray with a high pressure hose.

**Note:** The above conditions are considered to be normal maintenance and are therefore not covered by the Apex® 30-year limited warranties.