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CLEANING GUIDELINES FOR VINYL DECKING

All exposed vinyl deck membranes get dirty over the life of the vinyl from airborne pollutants, dirt and foot traffic. The accumulation of dirt on a dark colored vinyl deck is less noticeable than on a light colored vinyl deck. The type of dirt accumulation is also related to the location of the installed product, type of use and the surrounding environment. Each type of "dirt" requires a slightly different approach and level of effort to remove it from the textured surface of the Econodek™ vinyl deck membrane.

Should you wish to clean and restore the aesthetic appearance of your Econodek™ vinyl deck membrane, directions for cleaning are below.

1. Broom clean the deck surface. This will remove loose dirt and debris that might clog the drains or abrade the membrane surface during washing.
2. Wet the deck surface and allow to "soak" for five minutes to soften any dried debris.
3. Loosen the dirt from the membrane surface with a stiff bristle brush scrubbing in a circular motion which will loosen up any dirt at the bottom of the textured surface.
4. Rinse the area of membrane being worked with water alone to assess the effectiveness of cleaning.
5. If there is still dirt in texture of the membrane, thoroughly re-wet the deck surface and allow to soak for five minutes.
6. While soaking, apply a diluted mixture of Spic and Span® and water to the wetted membrane surface.
7. Re-scrub the membrane with the stiff bristle broom.
8. Thoroughly rinse with clean water before the soap residue has a chance to dry on the membrane.
9. The above steps will remove most forms of dirt. If one washing does not remove the dirt, you may need to repeat steps 1 - 8.



Pressure washing equipment can severely damage vinyl deck membranes if not used with caution. If a pressure washer is used please keep the following items in mind:

1. Do not use any pressure washer tip with less than a 30° arc. Tips with a concentration angle smaller than 30° can damage the vinyl decking membrane.
2. Do not use a rotating tip apparatus.
3. Maintain a minimum of 24" (60 cm) between the pressure washer nozzle tip and the vinyl membrane.
4. Do not use a pressure washer rated higher than 2500 psi (17 MPa).

Tougher Stains:

We can provide no advice on alternate cleaning solutions. Many chemicals and cleaning solutions can alter the performance and/or appearance of the vinyl membrane. If you choose to clean the vinyl membrane with an alternate cleaning solution we would strongly advise that you test it on a small unseen section of the membrane and rinse thoroughly. Tuff Industries Inc. is not responsible for damages caused from alternate cleaning products being used on its products.

If you suspect the vinyl deck membrane may have been damaged during the cleaning process, contact the manufacturer immediately.



Cautions and Warnings:

- Damage to Econodek™ vinyl deck membranes during washing operations is not covered under the warranty. The building owner assumes all risk for damage to the vinyl deck membrane during the cleaning process. Use extreme caution in performing the work.
- If damage occurs during the cleaning process, it is the responsibility of the owner to repair.
- Do not abrade, cut or scrape the surface of the vinyl deck membrane.
- Seams are typically laid shingle fashion towards the drain or gutter. Do not agitate, power wash or scrub against the seam, instead go over the top or parallel to it.
- Perform a visual inspection of the vinyl deck system before and after cleaning to identify any pre-existing damage and to verify the effectiveness of the cleaning process.
- Do not use, or allow anyone else to use, a floor scrubber on the vinyl membrane.
- It is the owner's responsibility to become familiar with, and abide by, local and regional codes and laws regarding acceptable cleaning soaps and proper disposal of cleaning water.
- Protect your vinyl deck membrane from scuffs, tears or excessive wear, refrain from dragging heavy and / or sharp objects across the deck and be aware of jagged edges that can damage the vinyl membrane.
- Wipe up all spills as soon as they occur and rinse area thoroughly with clean water.



- Be very cautious when using mats or throw rugs at doorways and landings, some of these materials are not compatible with vinyl and might discolor your Econodek™ vinyl membrane.
- Use of a plastic shovel to remove snow is acceptable, inspect the shovel for sharp edges or burrs before use.
- De-icing salt products can be used on Econodek™ vinyl deck membranes, however all products available in the market have not been tested. Some products may cause premature fading or discoloring of the vinyl membrane. Clean the vinyl deck membrane thoroughly in the spring to remove any leftover residue from the De-icer.
- BBQ areas should have a throw mat made of the Econodek™ vinyl membrane placed under and in front of the BBQ to prevent hot grease spills and burns.
- Vegetative matter such as leaves left in contact with your vinyl membrane can be especially difficult to clean. It is recommended that you periodically move such items as flower pots and patio furniture to prevent dirt buildup around these objects.
- Do not extinguish cigarettes on your vinyl membrane.
- Never permit pressure treated lumber products to come in contact with your Econodek™ vinyl deck membrane.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Cleaning methods other than those listed in this document have not been tested by Tuff Industries Inc. Some household cleaners, abrasives, steel wool, lacquer solvents, waxes or cleaning powders may cause permanent damage or discoloration and therefore are NOT recommended.

Under no circumstances are Acids, Ketones, Turpentine, Solvents, Ammonias or other unnamed chemicals to be used.

The continual use and buildup of various cleaning products combined with long term exposure to heat and ultra violet light can cause permanent discoloration to vinyl deck membranes. Although these non-authorized cleaning methods may not show any immediate signs of discoloring, over time they could cause permanent damage.