

## Wood Paver Care & Maintenance

### Wood Characteristics:

Wood Tiles are made of South American hardwoods which contain a rich variety of graining and coloration and are exceptionally dense and resistant to insects. The natural shading, coloration and graining variations add to the architectural character and overall visual appeal of the finished product.

### Storage:

Keep product out of direct sunlight until it is ready to be installed. Wood tiles should not be stored tightly wrapped in plastic. Wood tiles will adjust to the climate where they are installed and may have or develop some slight cracking or checking.

### Cutting:

Carbide tipped blades are highly recommended. Wood tiles have a very high density, and a slower feed rate is recommended when cutting tiles. In order to minimize checking (small cracks) the installer must seal any cut ends with Anchorseal® or other equivalent product. Apply sealer with a foam brush to the cut ends only, being very careful to not get any on the top surface of the wood.

### Reassembly:

To reassemble tiles after cutting, the installer must pre-drill holes from the bottom, using a carbide drill bit designed to extract stock during drilling. Exercise caution to not drill through the top surface. In addition, use only stainless-steel screws which are durable and provide maximum fastening power.

### Fastening:

strongly recommends the use of fastening kit when installing Wood Tiles. The pedestal/wood tile system installs quickly and securely and allows for removal later if required. The fastening kit, fastens wood tiles to the pedestals without penetrating or damaging the wood.

### Cleaning & Sealing:

If desired, wood tiles can be periodically cleaned and sealed. Wood stabilizers or sealants can help mitigate the loss of moisture on the top of the boards and minimize checking and splitting. The installer can lightly wax or seal the ends of the wood if desired. *Note: small checks and splits are normal and a natural part of the wood.* The following manufacturers offer cleaning and sealing products specifically designed for use with exotic hardwoods: Defy, Cabots, Penofin, Messmers. *Important: It is recommended that you test any cleaners or sealants in an inconspicuous area first before applying them to the installed deck. Note that staining and sealing wood pavers creates a maintenance issue that will need to be addressed regularly to continue desired results.*

### Sanding:

If you plan to seal your deck and desire a more uniform appearance, a light sanding is highly recommended. Use 80 grit sandpaper to lightly sand the wood tiles and thus reduce the appearance of any minor marks, scratches or surface imperfections. After sanding, sweep the tiles and use water to rinse away any remaining dust and allow to dry thoroughly before applying sealer. Exercise caution when sanding wood with the scuff resistant surface. *Important: Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.*

### General Safety Precautions:

Cutting, Grinding, or Sanding should be done outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Wear safety glasses with side shields when handling, cutting, sanding, or grinding this material. Use a face shield for processes that may generate excessive dusts and splinters. Wear puncture resistant work gloves, such as leather when handling. Respirators must be worn if the ambient concentration of airborne contaminants exceeds prescribed exposure limits. Dust masks may be worn to avoid the inhalation of nuisance dust. Refer to product MSDS for more information.

### Maintaining Tile Color:

To better maintain the rich coloration of the tiles, you can apply a penetrating oil finish with UV blocker. These products offer UV protection as well as mold and mildew protection. Before applying any finish, first clean and remove any residue from the wood tile as described above. After your initial coat is applied, an annual maintenance coat will help keep the coloration vibrant for years to come. *Important: Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.*

### Natural Aging:

Left to weather naturally and, depending on climatic conditions, wood tiles will develop a silvery-gray patina. If you prefer this look, it is recommended that a coat of wood stabilizer be applied after installation. Some products provide UV protection, allowing your wood tiles to acclimate more uniformly as weather and environmental conditions season the deck. Note: each board has unique characteristics and will weather at different rates. The amount of direct and indirect sunlight, temperature, humidity, moisture and other local conditions will factor into the time and shading of the deck. Shrinkage, cracks and changes in the wood tile is natural.

### Periodic Cleaning:

Commercial Cleaning Products: recommends using a deck cleaning product which safely cleans the wood and kills mold spores. To restore the pH balance of the deck, use a slightly acidic deck brightener. The deck tiles are ready to re-seal once they are cleaned. *Important: Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.*

### Pressure Washing:

You may also use a pressure washer to remove built-up dirt, mold or mildew from your wood tiles. Caution: use the lowest PSI for the species of wood you are cleaning. A maximum of 1200 PSI is suggested for wood tiles. also recommends using a professional deck cleaning contractor. *Important: Test an inconspicuous area first and be careful to use the wand in even strokes to avoid lap marks.*