

Millboard Decking Care and Maintenance Guide



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1. Thank You

Thank you for choosing a Millboard deck from Forté. We know you'll love it.

Millboard decking represents the best of outdoor living. Designed to replicate the beauty and feel of natural wood but without the maintenance, Millboard provides you with a practical, easy to care for surface, leaving you free to simply relax outdoors.

The beauty of Millboard decking is how little you have to do to keep it looking great. Its Lastane® surface is highly resistant to scratches, food and drink stains, and everyday use.

With just a little tender loving care, you'll enjoy years of outdoor living with the assurance of high slip and fade resistance, zero rotting, and no requirement for treatment or coating. We've carefully developed this care and maintenance guide to help keep your deck looking beautiful throughout the years.

Stunning to look at, sound in all weathers, and simple to look after, Millboard is an ideal choice for outdoor living. If you have any questions about caring for your deck, or would like to discuss any aspect of care and protection for your Millboard deck, please don't hesitate to call our AfterCare team .

The Forté Team

support@forte.co.nz

0508 35 66 77



2. Cleaning Your Millboard Deck

Caring for your Millboard deck is a lot easier than you might think. In fact, simple cleaning is the key ingredient to keeping your Millboard deck in tip-top shape to prolong the longevity of your deck..

2.1. REGULAR CLEANING

We recommend regularly removing dust and dirt using a hard bristle brush, broom, or a low-pressure washer.

Note: Pressure washers can be used carefully on your Millboard decking for cleaning and rinsing. We would recommend following the below guidelines:

- A PSI no greater than 2,000 should be used, with a 40- to 60-degree spread fan tip
- The head should always be kept around 300 mm away from the surface
- Please note that using pressure washers may increase the chance of screw holes becoming more visible
- Direct, prolonged, and intense contact could damage the surface of the boards

2.2. AS REQUIRED

We recommend cleaning your deck twice a year or as required. As an exterior product, Millboard will benefit from this periodic clean to remove any accumulated dust or dirt residue.

We recommend a thorough clean using a house wash:

1. Wet the area with water 10-15 minutes before applying any cleaning solution.
 2. Spread foaming cleaner onto the Millboard deck to help lift dirt out of the grain. Our preferred regular cleaner for Millboard is [Wet & Forget Double Bubble House Wash](#).
 3. Using a hard bristle brush or broom, scrub the surface of the Millboard to loosen any dust and dirt. We recommend the [Browns Superior Deck Scrub](#).
 4. Thoroughly rinse off the house wash solution using a hose or low-pressure washer. Ensure all the solution is washed off and avoid letting it dry on the surface.
 5. Always read the manufacturer's instructions and safety information provided. Test all cleaning methods and solutions in an inconspicuous area first before applying.
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3. Caring For Your Millboard Deck



3.1. REPAIRING SUPERFICIAL SCRATCHES OR DENTS

Millboard is finished with a Lastane® finish resistant to food and drink stains, scratches, and everyday wear and tear. However, sharp objects such as unprotected table or chair legs, spiked shoes, animal claws or metal planter bases can leave marks if dragged across the surface, so take care when moving these items around.

Scratches to the Lastane® surface can be disguised using a matching Millboard touch-up paint.

1. Stir or shake matching Millboard touch-up paint before applying it to the surface.
2. Apply touch-up paint to scratch using a fine artist brush; this will keep the painted area to a minimum, so it doesn't stand out when dry.
3. Keep the area clear of dust or dirt until the touch-up paint has dried.

3.2. REPAIRING DENTS OR GOUGES

If you have deeper dents or gouges on the surface of your Millboard deck, we recommend filling the holes with a polyurethane-based filler or sealant such as [Grey SikaFlex® 221](#).

To repair a dent or gouge:

1. Carefully fill the hole with a small amount of sealant.
2. Immediately wipe off any excess sealant from the surrounding surface of the board.
3. Once the sealant has dried, touch up the sealant with Millboard touch-up paint using a fine artist brush.

3.3. REMOVING STAINS

The risk of marking from strong dyes and stains such as berries and animal droppings will be reduced if removed as soon as possible. This also applies to cooking oils or fats that come into contact with the Lastane® surface.

Remove spills and marks with plenty of water, Wet and Forget Double Bubble House Wash and a cloth or brush (solvents or chemical cleaners are not typically required).

Stubborn marks or stains may be removed with a range of different, specialist cleaners depending on the issue.

Please feel free to seek further advice and guidance from our aftercare team support@forte.co.nz

3.4. REMOVING RUST, LIMESTONE OR CEMENT DUST

We recommend using [CLR® Calcium, Lime & Rust Remover](#) to remove any tough calcium and lime deposits or rust stains.

How to clean your Millboard deck using CLR:

1. Mix equal parts of CLR and warm water in a well-ventilated area.
2. Test on a hidden area before applying to the entire surface and apply directly with a brush, cloth, or sponge and let soak for two minutes.
3. Rinse promptly with cold water.
4. Do not leave CLR on an area for longer than two minutes or mix it with other cleaners or bleach.
5. Always read the manufacturer's directions before cleaning.

3.5. REMOVING ADHESIVES

We recommend sliding a flat plastic scraper along the surface of the Millboard boards. As the boards may still have the release agent on them, the adhesive may not have completely bonded to the surface and thus may release using the flat plastic scraper.

Smaller pieces of adhesive residue within the grain of the boards may be removed using a blade. Note: take care when using a blade not to affect the surface of the boards.

Once the adhesive has been removed, the boards can be given a clean. Stronger cleaning solutions may be required if adhesive residue on the boards is difficult to remove. Test stronger solutions on a hidden area before applying them to the surface.



4. Cleaning and Care products

We recommend the following products when cleaning or repairing your Millboard deck to keep your deck looking beautiful throughout the years. Other products may lead to inferior results or leave harmful residues.



Browns Superior Deck Scrub

We recommend you scrub your Millboard deck with a hard bristle brush similar to the Browns Superior Deck Scrub.



Wet & Forget® Double Bubble House Wash

Double Bubble House Wash assists in easily dissolving dirt and grime and the build-up of airborne contaminants that accumulate on exterior surfaces.



SikaFlex® 221

SikaFlex 221 is a multi-purpose adhesive sealant with a wide adhesion range that bonds well to various substrates. It is resistant to aging and can be sanded and painted.



CLR® Calcium, Lime & Rust Remover

CLR® quickly and easily dissolves and removes tough calcium and lime deposits and can be used to remove tough rust stains. CLR® is recognised as a safer alternative to traditional chemicals. It contains no phosphates and is septic free.

5. General Information



5.1. DOES MILLBOARD CHANGE COLOUR OVER TIME?

Millboard decking boards are resistant to fading and sun damage, far more so than timber or wood-plastic composite decking boards. However, Millboard decking will vary depending on the particular environment in which it is installed and the use to which it is subjected. Relevant factors to consider include sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) radiation, hot/cold temperature cycling, darker/richer coloured paint, and coastal/pool environments.

Like any product used outside, Millboard will naturally weather and tone down over time, but not to the extent of a regular timber deck.

We recommend choosing lighter colours in areas that are prone to high UV levels, as they tend to absorb less heat and UV radiation and reflect it off the surface. We also suggest to select surrounding glass products that don't intensify UV radiation onto the boards.

Contamination by dust/dirt can often cause the appearance of colour change (lightening of the surface), to help avoid this, please ensure the surface of the board is cleaned as per our guidance.

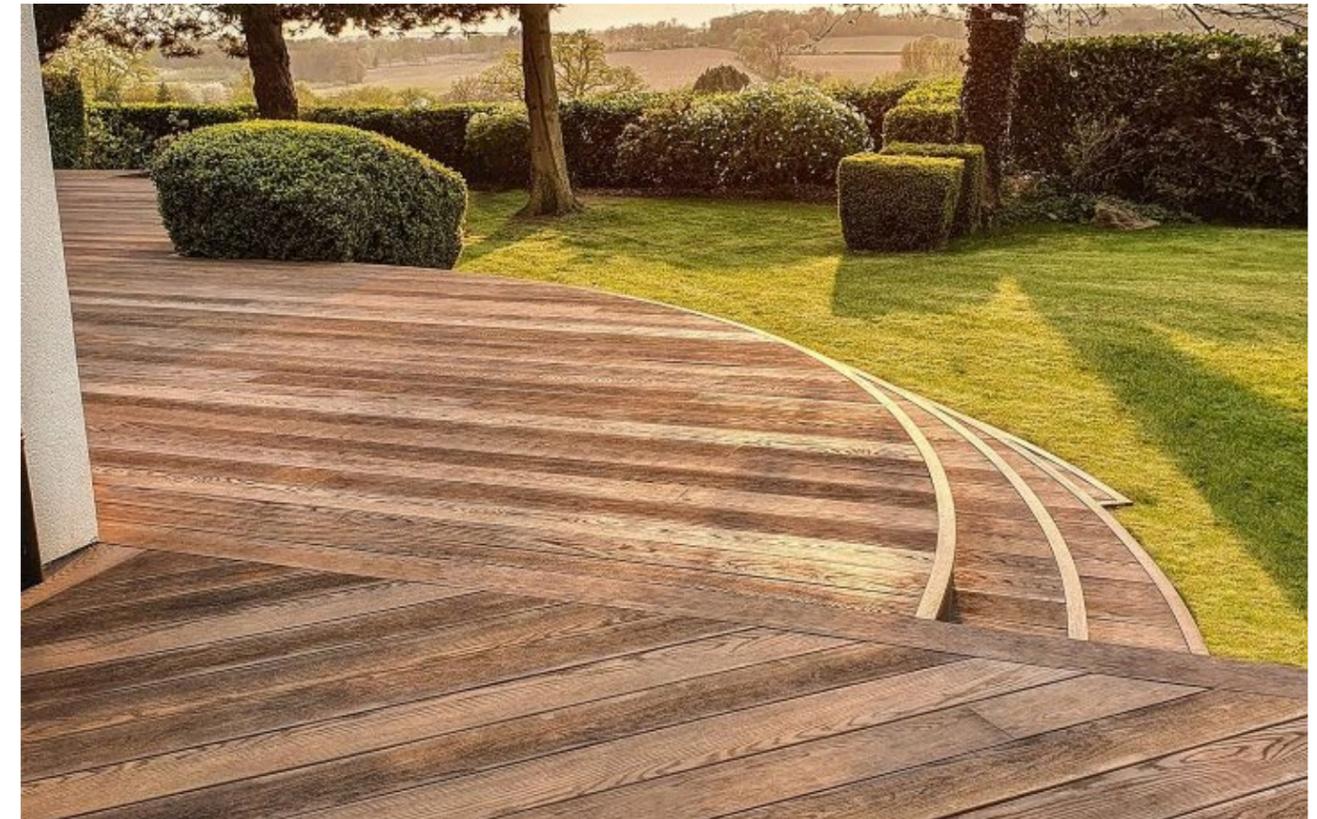
Note: A slight yellowing, especially in the deeper grain of Millboard decking and cladding boards, will be visible and a loss of gloss is also expected and intentional. This is in order for the Millboard boards to replicate the natural pieces of timber that it has been carefully moulded against along with its unique hand-coloured process.

5.2. HOW DOES MILLBOARD PERFORM IN THE HEAT?

As with all composite products, the surface of the boards tends to get hotter than timber when exposed to direct sunlight. Often, darker colours will feel hotter and may be uncomfortable to walk on with bare feet. Under direct sunlight and high temperature, footwear may be necessary. Particular caution should be taken when using Millboard decking in areas next to heat/UV-reflective glass or around pools.

5.3. HOW DOES MILLBOARD PERFORM IN THE COLD?

Like any exterior surface, a Millboard deck will be slippery when it has frost or ice on it. Frost can be removed by lightly spreading white salt over the boards. Please do not use rock salt, as this contains clay and grit, which can contaminate the boards and be abrasive. Snow can be removed from the boards with a stiff broom or a plastic snow shovel. Please do not use a metal or metal-faced shovel as this could damage the surface of your Millboard deck. Once winter is over, clean the surface with soapy water and a brush.



Example of a Millboard deck that has naturally weathered over time.

5.4. WHY DOES MILLBOARD HAVE WATER PUDDLING ON THE SURFACE?

Millboard products are manufactured with a release agent on the surface of the boards. When they are first installed, this release agent is still present on the surface and will typically wear off within 8-10 weeks due to natural weathering and usage.

This release agent means that water will form beads or globules over the surface of the boards. Once this release agent has worn off, water will dissipate across the boards' surface. Laying Millboard with a slight fall away from a building will help to drain the water off the surface; however, it will not drain all the water off the boards. As per the installation guide, Millboard should be installed with recommended gapping on the sides and ends of the boards to assist drainage. Please note that Millboard boards have a cupping tolerance of 2mm.

Surface water will always be more prevalent on Millboard because it is made from a non-porous composition. Surface water can easily be removed from the surface of the boards with a brush or large squeegee.

5.5. WHY IS MY NEWLY INSTALLED MILLBOARD DECK SLIPPERY? Millboard products are manufactured with a release agent on the surface of the boards. When they are first installed, this release agent is still present on the surface and will typically wear off within 8-10 weeks due to natural weathering and usage.

Due to this release agent, you may find the surface of your newly installed Millboard deck is slippery for two months post-installation and can take slightly longer in the cooler months.

To accelerate this process, clean the boards by following the directions of our cleaning routine 2.2 on page 7.

Note: Once the release agent has been removed, the boards look less shiny and will have more of a matte finish.

5.6. CAN I USE A FIRE PIT ON MY MILLBOARD DECK? Special care should be taken if using a fire pit/bowl, chiminea or brazier on your Millboard deck. Fire pits should not be placed directly on the surface of the boards, as this may cause damage to the Lastane® layer. You should also confirm with the supplier whether their product can be used on decking.

Any embers or burning material that fall on the boards could cause damage or lasting marks to the Millboard decking surface and should be removed immediately. It may be best for the heat source to be sat on a fireproof material such as a porcelain tile.

Patio heaters or infrared heaters are not known to affect Millboard.

5.7. WHY AM I SEEING AN UNDERTONE COLOUR IN MY DECKING? Millboard is hand-finished with a secondary colour to mimic the unique tones found in every single piece of timber. This is what we call a grain coat and will have been there at the point of installation. This isn't something that appears since being laid. This is intended and designed to create that natural timber look. Due to the colour being hand-applied, it doesn't cover the entire board, so with some sample pieces this will not show the grain colour and this is why we recommend viewing full panels of this product.



5.8. DOES MILLBOARD EXPAND OR CONTRACT? Due to Millboard's solid resin/mineral core, movement is expected and generally minimal, typically we see up to 0.1% movement which is less than would you would see in comparison to timber or composite decks.

In some cases when surrounded by glass, water, or in the sun all day, you may see up to 0.2% movement which equates to 7.2mm over a full 3.6m length of Millboard.

5.9. MILLBOARD TOLERANCES Millboard decking planks are individually hand-moulded from natural oak, and due to the pressure of the moulding process there will always be a slight variance in the board's dimensions.

There will always be a slight variance in the board's dimensions due to the following factors:

- We mould from natural oak
- The pressure of the moulding process

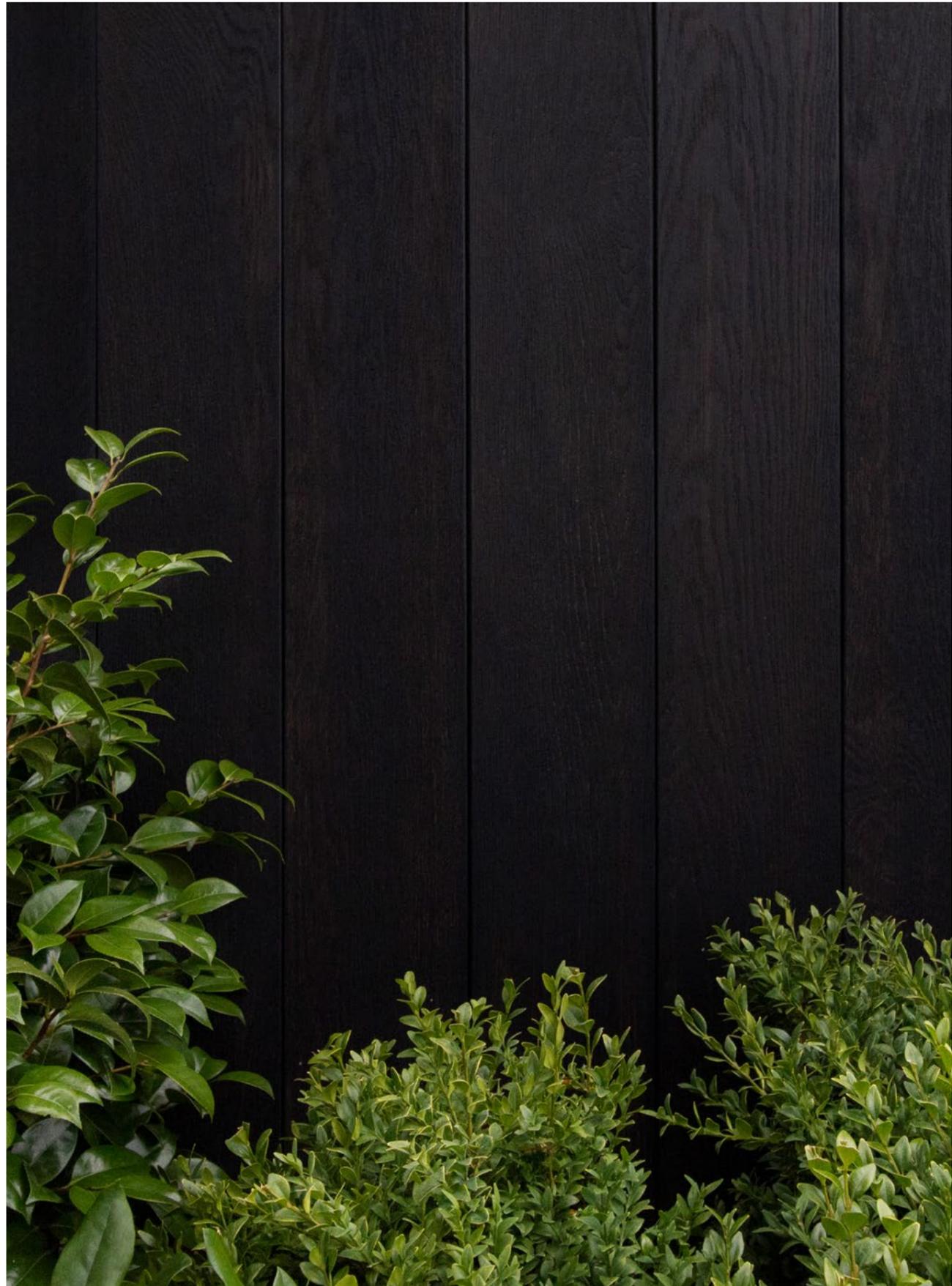
Our manufacturing tolerances are as follow:

- Width: $\pm 3\text{mm}$
- Length: $\pm 5\text{mm}$
- Thickness: $\pm 2\text{mm}$

Cupping Tolerances

Millboard has a cupping variance/tolerance of +/- 2mm however Millboard UK factory always tries and aims for a variance/tolerance of +/- 1mm so they are always striving to exceed what their warranty states.

Because of this, you can experience surface water sitting on the surface more as well as experiencing boards not lining up to match up perfectly on the ends as one will have a slight cup, this is something that is present in the product because of the unique moulding process.



6. Warranty or Technical Support

We stand by the quality of our products. If you have an issue with your product please hold off from installing the product and contact our Aftercare team to discuss or refer to our [Customer Service](#) page on our website for further information.

Please refer to our [Resources](#) page on our website for your Structural Warranty.

Forté Aftercare
support@forte.co.nz
0508 35 66 77

Auckland
299 Great North Road,
Grey Lynn, Auckland

Pukekohe
3 Keith Place,
Pukekohe, Auckland

Christchurch
93 Manchester Street,
Christchurch

Queenstown
179 Glenda Drive,
Frankton, Queenstown

forte.co.nz
info@forte.co.nz
0508 35 66 77

