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## Deck and Patio Care

### **Decks**

Wolmanized decks, although treated for rot-protection still need weather protection. Without it, the wood can dry out excessively and twist, warp, or check. There are two ways to treat your deck. The easiest and best way is to use a semi transparent stain. This not only protects your deck, but also allows it to blend in better with the house.

You can apply a clear sealer or one of the many sealer/stain combinations available in today's market. Check with your local supplier to find the best product for your needs. Stains or sealers can be applied with a plastic tank sprayer. (The same type used to apply insecticides) This method is fast and simple.

#### **When to apply:**

- Sealers need to be applied every year
- Stains need to be applied every two to three years as needed.

You should wait several months after your deck is built before treating it with a stain or sealer.

This allows the wood time to dry from the pressure treating process so the surface is able to hold a stain or sealer.

### **Benches, Fences, and Timber Lights**

Other wood products, whether treated natural cedar or redwood need a sealer or stain to prevent surface damage and discoloration. Follow the same directions listed above for decks.

### **Exposed Aggregate, Stamped Concrete, and Brick**

Clear sealers will keep moisture from penetrating the brick or concrete surface and prevent freeze/thaw damage. They also provide an attractive sheen and can be re-applied annually. As the color begins to fade, call us to apply another sealer coat or do so yourself using an acrylic sealer. (Try Belden/Lincoln Brick) Apply the sealer with a plastic tank sprayer to make the job quick and easy.

Some small hairline cracks may appear in the concrete, but this is normal. A wire mesh is used within the concrete and a fibrous material is added to the concrete to help prevent cracks from spreading. Over time, use may chip or scrape your concrete but don't worry, most are repairable. Call Clark's to have a repair scheduled.

During the winter, remember to avoid using salt or ice melter. These materials can cause pitting or discoloration in the concrete. Also, be sure to use plastic or rubber bladed shovels to prevent scraping on the surface.