



Guide to Mildew Treatment and Prevention



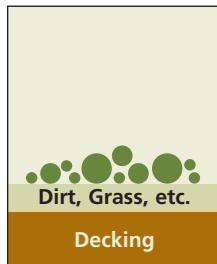
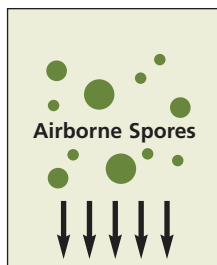
Mildew is a problem on all exterior surfaces

Here's why...

Mildew is an airborne spore that is common everywhere, but needs a food source to colonize. Among the food sources are grass and tree pollens, and nutrient-rich dirt or dust. These are often found on any exterior horizontal surface, such as a deck. Often mildew growth that is thought to be growing on the deck is actually growing on a surface film, which has accumulated on the deck. It should be noted that **mildew does not affect the performance of CorrectDeck decking and is an aesthetic issue only.**

All exterior building materials are affected by mildew.

Even fresh lumber, when delivered to the job site, can have mildew spores and developing colonies. Patio furniture, concrete sidewalks, and stucco siding are often affected by mildew as well. Horizontal surfaces are much more likely to have the problem because airborne particles are much more likely to accumulate. You may notice that mildew rarely grows where the deck is covered (for example under overhangs, under welcome mats, or on the underside of the deck). That is because the spores settle out of the air and they don't settle where the deck is covered.



Often mildew growth that is thought to be growing on the deck is actually growing on a surface film.

Three simple steps to prevent mildew

- 1 Sweep the deck regularly, whether it appears to need it or not, to clear off pollen.
- 2 Use Deck Defender 2 Spray Mildew Preventative from Correct Building Products. Spray this onto a clean dry deck. It will keep the deck cleaner between cleanings.
- 3 Consult the checklist on the back and remove any potential local sources of mildew.

More treatment & prevention tips on back...

How to get rid of mildew

Pick up a gallon of one of the following cleaners:

- Armor All E-Z Deck Wash
(available at most Walmart® stores)
- Behr Multi Surface Cleaner and Mildew Stain Remover
(available at most Home Depot® stores)

Visit our web site (www.correctdeck.com) for additional deck maintenance recommendations.

In each case, apply the cleaner by spraying it on – this makes it much easier to get consistent coverage. Follow the manufacturer's and instructions. If you wish to powerwash following the cleaning, use a setting below 1500 psi, 130° F.

Mildew prevention

Ensure that you have:

- gapped the decking properly (minimum 1/8")
- verified that the gutters do not discharge onto the deck
- checked that gutters are not backed up and overflowing onto deck
- dryer vent doesn't discharge directly onto or around deck
- pitched the deck properly away from the house for drainage (minimum 1/8" in 8')
- ensured that there is proper underdeck ventilation (latticework only on sides of deck), and that the underdeck area is clear of pooling water
- avoided the use of bark mulch around, on or under the deck (bark mulch may be heavily laden with mildew spores)
- avoided the use of lawn or plant fertilizer on the deck (such as overspray from lawn fertilizer)
- swept the deck every week, especially when pollen is heavy (typically spring and late summer)

All of the above factors can contribute to a mildew problem and should be corrected before further action is taken.

Other tips...

- **Sweep, don't hose. A dry deck is better.**

Do not hose the deck down to clean it, other than as part of the mildew removal procedure. It is better to sweep it.

- **Slope the underdeck area away from the house for proper drainage.**

If the underdeck area is moist, leafy, or poorly ventilated, it will promote the growth of mildew.

- **A high quality landscape fabric under the deck**

Covered with pea gravel or washed stone, is a good idea to prevent weed growth and moisture problems.

- **Pressure washing is acceptable.**

Set the pressure below 1500 psi, 130° F. Use the pressure washer to rinse the deck, as opposed to putting the cleaners in the pressure washer – it is better to **let the cleaners sit on the deck for at least an hour to work** and your cleaners will go farther this way.