


Cleaning Mold	Cleaning Mold on Uncapped and Capped Composite Decking
<p><b>About Mold and Mildew</b></p> <p>Photos with mold</p> 	<p>Mold and mildew are everywhere, both inside and outside, and feed on dead or decaying organic matter - they are one of the principle agents responsible for the natural recycling of dead plant and animal life.</p> <p>To thrive, mold and mildew need four things: air, water, temperature (above zero degrees Fahrenheit) and a food source. These conditions are common wherever humans live, work and play. There is no practical way to eliminate all these conditions in an environment. The best we can do is to control their growth. Of the four conditions, it is only possible to exert control over two - water and food source. When it comes to thriving mold and mildew colonies on composite building products, the primary culprits are ineffective water management and excessive food source.</p> <p>The reduction of water in an environment is best accomplished by ensuring water has the ability to flow away from a surface or area, minimizing the absorption of water and providing adequate ventilation so that water can rapidly evaporate.</p> <p>Composite building products like other outdoor building materials such as vinyl siding, brick and gutters can allow mold and mildew growth.</p>
<p><b>Solutions</b></p> <p><i>Capped Composite Decking</i></p> <p><i>Uncapped Composite Decking</i></p>	<p>To minimize mold on your decking, clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year. Climate conditions vary in different regions of the country and may necessitate more periodic cleaning.</p> <p>Removal of leaves, debris, and other organic materials that provide a food source for mold development is important.</p> <p>If mold is present on capped composite decking, use soap and water to clean.</p> <p>If mold is present on uncapped composite decking, there are many commercial products available for cleaning mold. We recommend the following commercial cleaners. For best results, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and use cleaners within their stated shelf life. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur. Never mix bleach and acids.</p> <p>To maximize application coverage, remove excessive organic growth or clumps prior to applying cleaner. Fibron recommends the following commercial cleaners that are heavy-duty, mildly alkaline, chlorinated mold and mildew removers/cleaners. Both are biodegradable once rinsed into the soil and have been tested to perform very well in removing mold and mildew and retarding its return. Both are available from Collier Manufacturing at this website: <a href="http://www.30seconds.net">http://www.30seconds.net</a>.</p> <p><b>For thorough cleaning, we recommend 30-Seconds® Outdoor Cleaner</b></p> <p>Instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spray surface to be treated when surface is dry and rain is not predicted for 12 hours or longer.</li> <li>2. Keep surface wet with the product for 4 to 5 minutes.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Foaming will occur during cleaning and will appear dirty while cleaning.</li> <li>4. Brush the surface if necessary to loosen stubborn build-up.</li> <li>5. Prior to rinsing, re-application may be necessary where heavy build-up occurs.</li> <li>6. Using a garden hose, thoroughly rinse with water and allow to dry thoroughly.</li> <li>7. Continue to reapply 30 SECONDS® Outdoor Cleaner in multiple applications until solution sprayed onto surface stays clear or white.</li> <li>8. Using a garden hose, thoroughly rinse with water and allow to dry thoroughly.</li> </ol> <p><b>After cleaning and for seasonal use during Spring and Fall before mold or mildew colonizes, we recommend 30-Seconds® Spray &amp; Walk Away.</b> This cleaner does not show immediate results, but works as a treatment, killing the growth slowly and effectively over time without damaging the surface. Some lichen and moss may take a week to remove or show signs of decay. If the surface to be treated is not fully exposed to rainfall or is vertical, then some additional wetting of the surface may be required. Reapplication may be required where heavy growth persists. Do not repeat treatment more than six times per year. Shake contents before use and be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix one part to five parts water (1:5 mix ratio). One gallon makes six gallons and treats approximately 1000 sq. ft. (depending on the mold growth and porosity of the surface).</li> <li>2. Thoroughly saturate surfaces to be treated.</li> <li>3. After use, clean and flush applicator thoroughly with water. If you prefer immediate results, we recommend 30 SECONDS® Outdoor Cleaner®.</li> </ol>
<p><b>For High Mold Prone Environments with Uncapped Composite Decking</b></p>	<p>For environments prone to high mold growth, there are several options available that are effective on uncapped composite boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Behr Premium <b>Transparent</b> Deck, Fence, and Siding Weatherproofing Wood Finish</i> at <a href="http://www.behr.com">http://www.behr.com</a>. This is a transparent stain that can darken and rejuvenate the faded deck color. Please test in an inconspicuous area prior to full application. Proper application can last up to four years on decks and six years on fencing.</li> <li>• <i>Behr Premium <b>Solid Color</b> Deck, Fence and Siding Weatherproofing Wood Stain</i>. This solid colored stain is offered in all Fibron composite decking solid colors. Proper application can last up to 10 years on decks and 25 years on fencing.</li> </ul> <p>Fibron tested with excellent results, using the 30-day ASTM D3273 mold test, which showed no mold growth after applying the weatherproofing finish. We also tested color longevity with over 2100hrs in a QUV chamber and the board remained colorfast.</p> <p>These finishes seal the wood composite surface when applied and maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The recommended coatings should be applied within one week of cleaning for best results.</li> <li>2. Prior to coating, properly clean the decking, rinse thoroughly with water and hose and allow to dry completely.</li> <li>3. Sweep off any pollen and debris.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Prevention Checklist</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain a deck that is dry and clean.</li> <li>2. Ensure gutters/downspouts and dryer vents do not discharge directly on decks.</li> <li>3. Ensure adequate ventilation under and between decking boards.</li> <li>4. Minimize water puddles under decks and the use of wet mulch up against the deck structure.</li> <li>5. Cleaning a deck just after the last of the major pollen events (when your car doesn't change color from the pollen anymore) will minimize the seasonal outbreak of mold and mildew.</li> <li>6. Periodically rinse off your deck using a garden hose with a spray nozzle, especially after the major pollen events. Skilled professionals may use pressure washers with wide fan tips but in the wrong hands your composite deck can be damaged. Exercise extreme caution when using pressure washers.</li> <li>7. Ensure the gaps between the decking boards remain free of debris so that regular rain showers can remove pollen and organic debris between cleanings.</li> <li>8. Avoid fertilizer over-spray.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Online Resources</b></p>	<p>For more information on mold and mildew, refer to these online references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. EPA – "A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home" <a href="http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html">http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html</a></li> <li>• Building Science Corporation – online articles on mold and moisture control <a href="http://www.buildingscience.com/resources/more-topics/mold">http://www.buildingscience.com/resources/more-topics/mold</a></li> <li>• National Association of Home Builders Research Center – ToolBase Services, Durable Building Envelope Details for New Construction or Addition <a href="http://www.toolbase.org/PDF/DesignGuides/techset2_checklist.pdf">http://www.toolbase.org/PDF/DesignGuides/techset2_checklist.pdf</a></li> </ul>

**Before and After Photos  
Using 30 Second Cleaner**

