



How to seal and colour your HardieDeck™ PART 2 OF 2

Sealing Guide

OUTDOORS

Remember to also download Part 1, [HardieDeck™ Installation Guide](#) >

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Make sure your information is up to date.

When specifying or installing James Hardie™ products, ensure that you have the current technical information and guides. If in doubt, or you need more information, visit www.jameshardie.com.au or Ask James Hardie™ on 13 11 03.



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1. SELECTING THE BEST SEALER

There are several sealers and finishes that are recommended for HardieDeck™ decking – however, not every sealer is suitable for every application. Ensure that you select a suitable sealer for your deck design and application.

Table 1: Suitability of sealing systems

Look	Sealing System	Standard	Moisture Rich Conditions*		
		Unenclosed decks with ground clearance* over 300mm	All enclosed and unenclosed decks with a ground clearance* over 150mm	Corrosive environments e.g. swimming pools and coastal areas (within 50 - 300m of breaking surf)	Cool climate areas‡ (Zone 7)
The Coloured Look	Crommelin® DiamondCoat® or Enhance Tinted Paving Sealers	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Avista® Concrete Sealer General Purpose Matt + Tint	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Berger Jet Dry Sealing Systems	✓	✗	✗	✗
	White Knight® Ultra Pave® Sealing System	✓	✗	✗	✗
The Natural Concrete Look (clear finish)	Crommelin® DiamondCoat® or Enhance Paving Sealers	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Timber Look	Dulux Intergrain NaturalStain	✓	✗	✗	✗

TABLE NOTES:

+Moisture rich conditions require careful consideration of cross-flow ventilation and drainage. Moisture and humidity trapped under the deck, without moving airflow, may result in moisture-related issues in any sealing system, as well as premature degradation of the sub frame. Please refer to the HardieDeck™ Installation Guide for more information. †Note that HardieDeck™ is not suitable for Climate Zone 8. To determine the relevant climate zone for your project, visit: http://www.yourhome.gov.au/sites/prod.yourhome.gov.au/files/pdf/YOURHOME-Introduction-AustClimateZones_4.pdf

*Distance measured from the ground to the bottom of the lowest horizontal framing member



1.1 THE COLOURED LOOK



Berger 2 – Shale Grey



Crommelin® DiamondCoat® – Mid Grey

Solid colours provide a sleek, contemporary look on HardieDeck™. The recommended sealing systems can be tinted in a range of colours to provide you with the perfect finish that suits your home.

Anti-slip additives are required for decks installed around pools, or wherever there is a requirement for a P4 slip rating.

To achieve the Coloured Look, we recommend the following Sealing Systems:

Table 2: Crommelin® coloured sealing systems

Name	Components	
Crommelin® DiamondCoat®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DiamondCoat® Paving & Concrete Sealer Natural (Primer -1 coat) DiamondCoat® Tintable Sealer Satin & tint (min. 2 coats) 	Full specifications
Crommelin® Enhance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crommelin® Enhance Penetrating sealer (Primer -1 coat) Crommelin® Enhance Satin sealer & tint (min. 2 coats) 	Full specifications

Visit <http://hardiedeck.com.au/coatings> to download your selected sealing system specification

CROMMELIN® COLOUR RANGE

Crommelin® Enhance



Crommelin® DiamondCoat®



Table 3: Avista coloured sealing systems

Name	Components	
Avista Concrete Sealer General Purpose Matt + Tint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avista Concrete Sealer Primer (1 coat) Avista Concrete Sealer General Purpose Matt + Tint (min. 2 coats) 	Full specifications

Visit <http://hardiedeck.com.au/coatings> to download your selected sealing system specification

Note: For full range of colors, please refer to <https://www.avista.com.au/colour-chart/concrete-resurfacing/colour-sealer>

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

If your deck is unenclosed and has a ground clearance higher than 300mm, the following systems are also available. These systems offer a wider range of colours including colour matching to suit a specific style for your project. For more information, please consult your selected manufacturer. James Hardie recommends light reflective colours for areas exposed to the sun.

Table 4: Other coloured sealing systems

Name	Components	
Berger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berger Jet Dry Stone and Paving Sealer Natural (1 coat) Berger Jet Dry Aquatread Satin (2 coats) 	Full specifications
White Knight® Ultra Pave®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Knight® Ultra Pave® Garage Floor Primer (1 coat) White Knight® Ultra Pave® Paving and Concrete Top Coat (2 coats) 	Full specifications

Visit <http://hardiedeck.com.au/coatings> to download your selected sealing system specification

1.2 THE NATURAL CONCRETE LOOK



To achieve a concrete 'Industrial Look' with HardieDeck™, a clear sealing system may be used. A clear sealed HardieDeck™ system can be both attractive and durable. The natural finish of HardieDeck™ boards contains colour and pattern variations. Some think the inconsistency adds character to the aesthetic and gives you that 'Industrial Appeal'. Others prefer more uniformity (solid colour). Either way, you should inspect the boards and decide whether a natural finish will meet your expectations.

Anti-slip additives are required for decks installed around pools, or wherever there is a requirement for a P4 slip rating.

To achieve the 'Industrial Look', we recommend the following Sealing Systems:

Table 5: Crommelin® clear sealing systems

Name	Components	
Crommelin® DiamondCoat®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DiamondCoat® Paving & Concrete Sealer Natural (1 generous coat) • DiamondCoat® Paving & Concrete Sealer Satin (2 coats) 	Full specifications
Crommelin® Enhance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Penetrating sealer (1 generous coat)* • Enhance Satin sealer (2 coats) 	Full specifications

Visit <http://hardiedeck.com.au/coatings> to download your selected sealing system specification

1.3 THE TIMBER LOOK

For those who prefer the more traditional timber look, HardieDeck™ can be finished with Intergrain NaturalStain. Dulux Timber Finish System can be used in unenclosed decks with a ground clearance over 300mm.

Please note that this system is not suitable in corrosive environments (Pools or coastal areas within 1km of shoreline). If your deck does not satisfy the requirements, please consult James Hardie™ on 13 11 03 for alternative finishes.



Table 6: Dulux Timber Finish Sealing System

Name	Components	
Dulux Intergrain Naturalstain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergrain NaturalStain (3 coats) • The anti-slip additive Intergrain Ultragrip may be used where required. 	Full specifications

Visit <http://hardiedeck.com.au/coatings> to download your selected sealing system specification

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Ensure to apply sealer within 60 days from installation or within 7 days if installed around swimming pools or within 1km of coastal areas.
2. Ensure that you refer to and comply with all relevant and respective manufacturer guidelines and literature current at the time of sealing. All the manufacturer's specifications are available via HardieDeck.com.au or simply consult your sealing system manufacturer.

2. GETTING READY TO SEAL YOUR HARDIEDECK™

- Choose a period of clear weather with no rain forecast for the period of application and as recommended by the sealer manufacturer for minimum drying or curing time.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations on ideal temperature and humidity conditions for application – some sealers will not cure or adhere well if the temperature is too cold or too hot.
- It is best practice to apply the sealer early morning or late afternoon to avoid direct sunlight, which may cause issues with curing and performance. Refer to the respective manufacturer's specification for more information.

2.1 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR 'THE INDUSTRIAL LOOK'

- When installing the boards, ensure that the natural finish of every board is considered suitable. Specific instructions may need to be provided to the decking installer so that any boards with an unsuitable variation are not installed. Please note that the product is subject to natural variances in finish arising from the manufacturing process. The fact that a particular board does not conform with your aesthetic requirements does not mean that the board has a manufacturing defect. Please refer to the HardieDeck™ Warranty for further information.
- Boards may come slightly stained or scuffed due to the manufacturing and transportation process. Cleaning can reduce or soften these marks, but may not entirely eliminate them.
- Similarly, care should be taken to avoid scuffing and staining the boards during the installation process. The boards should be thoroughly cleaned to deliver the best finish for your clear sealed deck. Refer to Section 3 of this guide for further details.
- Once the deck is completed, it is advised to seal the deck using the recommended systems (outlined in Section 1) as soon as possible. The longer the deck is left unsealed, the higher the risk of marking and staining after installation.

3. PREPARING THE SURFACE

3.1 PROTECTING THE SURFACE DURING INSTALLATION

- The more you can keep your HardieDeck™ surface protected from stains and dirt during installation, the less cleaning you will have to do later.

- Surface protection is very important if you wish to clear seal the deck.
- Avoid treading dirt and mud onto the deck surface during installation. Protect or cover the surface if there are muddy conditions onsite.
- Avoid placing food or drink near an uncovered HardieDeck™ surface during installation. Grease, food and drink stains will stain the bare surface, will be extremely difficult to remove and may affect sealer adhesion.
- Avoid using the deck surface as a working platform (e.g. for cutting timber, storing tools or chemicals). If this is unavoidable, adequately cover or protect the surface to avoid damage and contamination.
- To avoid tannin staining, ensure timber is not stored on uncovered HardieDeck™ boards.

3.2 CLEANING THE SURFACE

- Always ensure that the HardieDeck™ surface is clean and dry before applying your sealer.
- Sweep off all dirt and debris.
- Assess the surface condition of the deck, taking note of any stains, contaminants, ground-in dirt etc.
- Clean the deck surface with a soft-bristled broom and water. If the surface is particularly dirty, use a solution of mild pH-neutral detergent in water. Immediately hose the deck down with clean water.
- If using a pressure cleaner, ensure that the pressure setting is no higher than 1600 psi, and do not hold the nozzle too close to the deck surface. Test on a small part of the deck, and inspect the surface. If it appears that the surface has roughened, or that the water jet has cut into the board, the pressure is too high or the nozzle is being held too close.
Note: Once sealed, it is not recommended to clean the surface using a pressure cleaner.
- For clear sealing: any particularly stubborn stains may be lightly sanded off using 120 grit sandpaper, and finished with 180 grit sandpaper.
- Allow the deck to dry for a minimum of 48 hours in fine weather. A check in dampness may be conducted to ensure it is dry and ready to coat (see Section 4.1).
- Just before applying your first coat, vacuum the deck surface to remove any dust or dirt that may have settled on it.
- **Acid etching is not recommended on HardieDeck™ decking.**

4. APPLYING THE SEALER

4.1 MOISTURE TEST

- If you are unsure as to whether your deck is dry enough to seal, a simple moisture test can be completed - place a 300 x 300 mm piece of black plastic / rubber mat on the area to be sealed at the hottest part of the day. After 2 hours, remove and inspect. If any condensation is present on the under-side of the plastic, or the board has darkened, then it is too wet to seal. Be patient, allow to dry further and repeat test until no moisture is detected.

4.2 VACUUM THE SURFACE

- Dry vacuum the surface prior to applying the first coat, to remove any dust that may have settled on it.

4.3 APPLY THE SEALER

- Following the manufacturer's specifications, apply the sealing system. Take note of the recommended coverage rates, and the recommended timeframes between coats. **Ensure that the coating is well mixed, and that there are no entrained bubbles in the coating prior to application.**
- Coat one board at a time, working in long, smooth strokes along the length of the board. Take care not to create overlap marks in the finish, and that a smooth finish is achieved. Ensure that all chamfers are fully coated as well.
- Use a suitable roller such as the Uni-Pro 230mm x 11mm Nap Concrete and Paving Roller Cover.
- Avoid painting in direct sunlight, particularly if the ambient temperature is over 30°C, as the deck surface temperature will likely be too hot.
- If your surface preparation and cleaning has resulted in rough patches that are visible after the first coat, you can lightly sand the rough spots back using 180 grit sandpaper between coats.

4.4 CURING

- Allow the sealer to fully dry and cure. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations on when light foot traffic can be applied, and when full cure is achieved. Keep pets off the deck until the sealer is fully cured.
- Furniture and pot plants may be placed on the deck once the sealer is fully cured. Refer to the selected sealer specifications for curing times.
- To avoid scratching and staining the finish, ensure that feet protectors are placed on furniture legs, and plant trays are placed under potted plants.

5. MAINTAINING YOUR HARDIEDECK™

5.1 REGULAR CLEANING

- Depending on the location and frequency of use, your HardieDeck™ needs to be cleaned regularly to maintain its good looks.
- Sweep off dirt, dust and debris regularly.
- When required, hose down the deck and lightly scrub with a soft bristled broom or mop. To remove stains and contamination, a pH-neutral detergent can be used. Always rinse the deck with clean water.
- For decks installed around pools and in coastal areas, there is a risk of exposure to salt and chemicals. These decks must be cleaned more frequently to remove salt and chemical deposits. It is recommended that these decks are cleaned weekly with clean water.
- Foliage and plant matter must be swept off the deck regularly to avoid unwanted stains.
- While the sealers will protect your deck, it is best practice to clean stains and spills as soon as possible to avoid permanent stains.

5.2 WEAR AND TEAR

As with any decking material, HardieDeck™ will experience wear and tear over time. However, there are steps you can take to minimise early wear and tear:

- Allow the sealer to fully cure before placing furniture and pot plants on the deck, or allowing pets on the deck.
- Ensure that the deck surface is protected from scratching from furniture legs.
- Avoid dragging heavy or sharp objects over the deck – lift and place, or use suitable trolleys or mechanical aids.
- Install suitable edge protectors on stair treads.
- Avoid conditions where moisture may sit on the deck surface for extended periods of time, e.g. under pot plants and non-breathable coverings.

5.4 RESEALING

Note: Clear sealing systems may require more frequent resealing and cleaning compared to solid colour sealers. This will depend on the level of exposure and wear on the deck – every deck will be different. If you notice that water is starting to soak into your decking boards after rain, it is time to re-seal your deck.

- Resealing frequency will vary depending on your application and exposure to the elements. Please consult with your sealer manufacturer for more information.
- Ensure that top strips have been removed prior to sealing. If care is taken not to bend the top strips in the removal process, they may be re-installed. Alternatively, purchase new top strips from a HardieDeck™ distributor.
- Remove any areas of loose coating, heavy staining or contamination. Sand these areas back using sandpaper. Finish off with a 180 grit sandpaper to provide a smoother finish when re-sealing.
- Thoroughly clean the deck surface and allow to dry (see Section 3.2). Acid etching is not recommended.
- To ensure the surface is dry, the moisture test may be performed (see Section 4.1).
- Apply the primer or sealer/primer in any areas where the old sealer has been sanded back to raw substrate. Use a recommended primer that is compatible with the topcoat paint or sealer you have selected. If you are re-sealing with a clear sealer, apply the respective suitable penetrating sealer of your selected sealing system.
- Apply the finish coats and allow to cure.
- Install new or existing top strips.

Note: Always ensure that the new sealing system selected is compatible with the current system. For example, water-based finishes may not be applied over solvent-based sealers. Contact the coating manufacturer for assistance and recommendations.

DISCLAIMER

James Hardie does not manufacture or supply the sealant and or coating products recommended in this guide. Please contact the relevant sealant/coating manufacturer for Warranty Terms & Conditions, and/or further information. The recommendations and guidelines set out in this guide are in addition to, and not a substitute for, the coating/sealant manufacturer's guidelines and literature which are current at the time of coating/sealing. Please ensure that you fully consult such literature prior to coating/sealing and comply with the relevant terms and conditions of such literature.

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