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## MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

**FOR ECONODEK™ VINYL DECKING**

All exposed vinyl deck membranes get dirty over the life of the vinyl from airborne pollutants, dirt and foot traffic. The type of dirt accumulation is related to the location of the installed product, type of use and the surrounding environment. Each type of “dirt” requires a slightly different approach and level of effort to remove it from the textured surface of the Econodek vinyl deck membrane. These Instructions are in addition to, and do not replace, the Required Maintenance instructions contained in the Limited Product Warranty.

### ***Detailed Maintenance Instructions for your Econodek Vinyl Deck Membrane.***

1. Regularly broom clean the deck surface. This will remove loose dirt and debris that might clog the drains or abrade the membrane surface during washing.
2. Wet the deck surface and allow to “soak” for five minutes to soften any dried debris.
3. Loosen the dirt from the membrane surface with a stiff bristle brush scrubbing in a circular motion which will help lift any dirt at the bottom of the textured surface.
4. Rinse the area of the membrane being worked with clean water to assess the effectiveness of the cleaning.
5. If there is still dirt in the texture of the membrane, thoroughly re-wet the deck surface with hot water from your household tap (no hotter than 49° C / 120° F) and allow to soak for five minutes.
6. While soaking, re-scrub the membrane surface with a stiff bristle brush.
7. Rinse the area of the membrane being worked with clean water to assess the effectiveness of the cleaning.
8. The above steps will remove most forms of dirt. If one washing does not remove the dirt, you may need to repeat steps 1-7 numerous times.



***Pressure washing equipment can severely damage vinyl deck membranes if not used with caution. If a pressure washer is used please keep the following items in mind:***

1. Do not use any pressure washer tip with less than a 30° arc. Tips with a concentration angle smaller than 30° can damage the vinyl decking membrane.
2. Do not use a rotating tip apparatus.
3. When using a pressure washer, do not exceed a max PSI of 1000, and the usage of a wide tip nozzle with a maintained minimum of 12" distance between nozzle and the vinyl membrane is required. Damage caused by power washing is not covered under the terms of the Econodek warranty.
4. Use extreme caution around all trims, railings and caulking.

### ***Tougher Stains:***

Tuff Industries Inc. can provide no advice on alternate cleaning solutions. Many household chemicals and cleaning products will leave a residue which can alter the performance and / or appearance of the vinyl membrane product. If you choose to clean Tuff vinyl membranes with any cleaning solution other than clean fresh water Tuff Industries Inc. will not be held responsible for damages caused from these cleaning solutions.

If you suspect the vinyl deck membrane system may have been damaged during the cleaning process, contact the installation contractor who installed the membrane.

## CAUTIONS & WARNINGS



- Damage to Tuff vinyl deck membranes during washing operations is not covered under the warranty. The building owner assumes all risk for damage to the vinyl deck membrane during the cleaning process. Use extreme caution in performing the work.
- If damage occurs during the cleaning process, it is the responsibility of the owner to repair.
- Do not abrade, cut or scrape the surface of the vinyl deck membrane.
- Seams are typically laid shingle fashion towards the drain or gutter. Do not agitate, power wash or scrub against the seam, instead go over the top or parallel to it.
- Perform a visual inspection of the vinyl deck system before and after cleaning to identify any pre-existing damage and to verify the effectiveness of the cleaning process.
- Do not use, or allow others to use, an electric or gas powered floor polisher on the vinyl membrane.
- It is the owner's responsibility to become familiar with, and abide by, local and regional codes and laws regarding the proper disposal of cleaning water.
- Protect your vinyl deck membrane from scuffs, tears or excessive wear. Refrain from dragging heavy and/or sharp objects across the deck and be aware of jagged edges.
- Wipe up all spills as soon as they occur and rinse area thoroughly with clean water.

- We do not recommend the use of mats, throw rugs or carpets placed on the vinyl decking. Many materials are not compatible with vinyl and could discolor your Tuff vinyl membrane. Discoloration from these objects are not covered under warranty.
- Use of a plastic shovel to remove snow is acceptable. Inspect the shovel for sharp edges or burrs before use.
- De-icing products should be used with extreme caution on Tuff vinyl deck membranes as the numerous options on the market have not been tested. Some products may cause premature fading or discoloring of the vinyl membrane. Clean the vinyl deck membrane thoroughly in the spring to remove any leftover residue from the vinyl deck surface.
- Vegetative matter such as leaves left in contact with your vinyl membrane can be especially difficult to clean. It is recommended that you periodically move such items as flower pots and patio furniture to prevent dirt buildup around these objects.
- Do not extinguish cigarettes on your vinyl membrane.
- Never permit pressure treated lumber products or pressure treated lumber residue from staircases, planters, railings, posts or foot traffic to come in contact with your Tuff vinyl deck membrane.

### YOU SHOULD KNOW

Cleaning methods other than those listed in this document have not been tested by Tuff Industries Inc. All household cleaners, abrasives, steel wool, lacquer solvents, waxes and cleaning products or powders may cause permanent damage or discoloration to the membrane and therefore are NOT recommended.

Under no circumstances are Acids, Ketones, Turpentine, Solvents, Ammonias or other unnamed chemicals to be used.

The continual use and buildup of various cleaning products combined with long term exposure to heat and ultra violet light can cause permanent discoloration to Tuff vinyl membranes. Although these non-authorized cleaning methods may not show any immediate signs of discoloring, over time they could cause permanent damage.