

HARDSURFACES

Decks

Keeping a wooden deck clean isn't only for aesthetics; it can help you avoid costly maintenance down the road. Clean tree debris such as leaves, twigs and seeds from the deck frequently as these items can cause stains. These stains may become permanent or require extraordinary effort to remove.



To clean your deck, scrub the surface with a stiff fiber brush on a long handle and a sudsy mixture of water and laundry detergent. Another option is to try a commercial deck cleaner that reduces mildew and will not harm the surrounding lawn. Always wear protective eyewear and gloves when cleaning a deck with chemicals. Debris that clogs the spaces between deck boards traps moisture, encouraging mildew and rot. Blast out debris using a powerful nozzle on a garden hose. Grease from a gas grill will stain a deck, and these stains are permanent. Place a mat under the grill to avoid this. Clean the overflow compartment of the grill frequently.



For snow removal, consider investing in a shovel with a plastic or rubber blade rather than metal.

Plants and flowers promote mildew and mold growth. To avoid this, make sure that plants and flowers do not overflow their planters. Also move the pots around to different spots to help prevent staining. Put small blocks under a large planter to keep air moving underneath and to prevent stains on the deck.



Stone Surfaces

Most properly laid dry stone and other masonry products should require no maintenance. Masonry that is joined by mortar needs an annual inspection to determine whether all the masonry joints are intact and are not allowing water to seep into the subsurface where freeze thaw cycles could cause cracking, or other surface deterioration problems.



Flat laid dry surfaces will experience some settling or movement from freeze-thaw cycles over the years and may require leveling. If you see your stone patio starting to settle please call TruNorth for assistance.

