



CAUTION

WARNING AGAINST USE OF ACID CLEANERS/RUST REMOVERS ON TEAK DECKS

Generally, rust cleaners contain acids—either in liquid or powder forms, which can vary greatly in strengths in accordance with the application intended for the product. Acids are also classified as either organic or mineral, i.e., oxalic acid is an example of organic and phosphoric acid is an example of a mineral acid. Both of these substances are commonly used in rust cleaners.

Acids may have the effect of softening the caulking in the seams of our panels and the resulting softening will lead to seam failure over a period of time. Once a crack opens between the seam and the wood, it allows cleaning solutions to collect in the cracks where it cannot be easily rinsed out, and seam failure accelerates.

The "cleaning" action of acids appears to be very effective, because the acid actually removes some of the material being cleaned—in our case, the wood and the caulking. Over time, enough material may be removed to compromise the integrity of the wood where it meets the caulking seam, causing a crack, which, as described above, accelerates the failure of the adhesion of the caulk to wood.

Additionally, unless the acid cleaning solution is neutralized (by rinsing with an alkaline solution after it is applied) the corrosive action of the acid may continue for some time, even after the solution is dry. Rinsing with water is not sufficient to stop this action.

As part of a regular maintenance program, TDS Powdered Teak Cleaner can be used on a weekly basis. This cleaner is very effective as a general purpose cleaning agent, especially when used with hot water, and is environmentally safe as well as user friendly, since it is completely biodegradable and contains no acids, caustics, or bleaches.

We recommend that a non-corrosive alkaline cleaner, such as TDS LIQUID TEAK CLEANER be used on a monthly basis. This product contains a very effective degreasing agent for cleaning teak decks and is very efficient for stubborn stains such as soot, grease or oil. The cleaner can be applied full strength on the areas affected and allowed to work before the entire deck is cleaned. This product is also biodegradable and non-hazardous to the environment or user when used as directed.

In no case can we recommend the use of acid type cleaners for cleaning wood decks, even if mixed with alkaline cleaners. Use of acid cleaners will invalidate warranties on our decks.

The above information is based on our years of experience in maintaining teak decks and the principles of basic chemistry. While it is not intended as a scientific study, we believe it to be accurate and solidly based.

TEAK OIL

We do not recommend the use of oils on exterior teakdecking. Teakwood contains natural oils and to treat the decking with oil is not at all necessary. If the use of an oil or sealer is preferred for cosmetic reasons, do not use oils containing kerosene or other petroleum products, which will damage the caulking. Check ingredients carefully.