## **KIANSON** 2011-12

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# **CULTURE® Mildew ('Black Spots') Cleaning Procedure**

### What is Mildew ('Black Spots')?

The term mildew is often used generically to refer to mold growth, usually with a flat growth habit. Molds can thrive on many organic materials, including clothing, leather, paper, and the ceilings, walls and floors of homes or offices with poor moisture control. Mildew often lives on shower walls, windowsills, and other places where moisture levels are high. There are many species of molds. In unaired places, such as basements, they can produce a strong musty odor. (Reference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mildew)

(Below are some pictures of examples of mildew)



**Stainless Steel Railing** 

Natural Balau Timber

Concrete Slab



Floor Tiles **Cement Wall** 'X' brand Composite Timber

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#### What causes Mildew ('black spots')?

**Pollen & Debris** - Mildew ('black spots') is caused by pollen or debris from the surrounding plants which settle on the timber plank and germinates. On some occasions, debris and dust construction site will also be the cause of mildew on it. Once full blown, it will result in mildew. The severity of the mildew will depends on the extend of course of action and the maintenance level of the deck.

Lack of regular cleaning - Many of the instances of mildew, the deck is not properly maintained and washed. We recommend a regular jet washing between 1-2 times monthly depending on the environment of the surrounding. If the area is highly moist and full of heavy vegetation and landscape, we will recommend washing it twice a month.

In many of the case where we encountered, they are condominium units which are not sold and they are locked. Most of these units lack cleaning and human traffic and as such, these are the areas which will encounter most serious mildew issues.

**Heavy vegetation and landscape** – Heavy vegetation and landscape will mean that there will be huge amounts of pollens (especially during certain seasons), soil, dust and debris will be collecting on the timber deck. The organic and inorganic particles collected on the deck will start to germinate and coupled with moisture and tropical climate, mildew will surface.

#### The good news!

Mildew ('black spots') is not permanent and can be removed. As CULTURE Composite Timber Planks have absorption rate of less than 2%, the roots of mildew will have no means to grow deep into the planks.

Therefore, by using our "CULTURE® Mildew ('Black Spots') Cleaning Procedure" below, we will be able to remove the unsightly black spots.

However, after removing mildew, regular cleaning should be done to prevent occurrence.

Lastly, mildew is a very common issue with many materials, not only Composite Timber. We trust that you will continue to enjoy **CULTURE**<sup>®</sup> **Composite Timber Decking!** 

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Step	Procedure	Pictorial
1.	Prepare all the necessary tools for cleaning of damaged timber planks:  a. Pail of Water & Dipper b. Scrubbing Brush (Fabric or Plastic ones) c. Jomax House Cleaner and Mildew Killer (Optional) d. Household Oxygen Bleach e. Water Hose and water supply	
2.	Pour the bleach directly on the areas with mildew. Wait for 10-15 minutes and rinse well.  The remnants of cleaning agent should be thoroughly washed with clean water.  Any remnants of the cleaning agent left for more than 10-15 minutes may sustain permanent color disparity.	
3.	The mildew ('black spots') should be cleaned after this procedure.  Depending on the severity of the mildew, you may require to repeat the procedure 2-3 times  If after 2-3 times of cleaning, the 'black spots' do not clear, please kindly contact our Maintenance Department at 63535 180, or email to us at info@kianson.com (Attn: Maintenance Department).	

#### Disclaimer

All content in this literature is for informational purposes only. This information should not be considered complete, up to date, and is not intended to be used in place of a visit, consultation, or advice of the staff of KIANSON. We recommend you contact our staff before applying the above

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