



DECK COATINGS

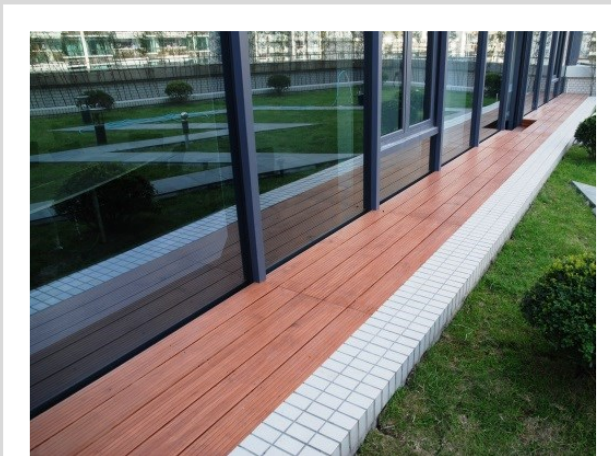
Coatings are applied to Accoya for largely aesthetic reasons. Guaranteed levels of decay resistance and dimensional stability apply to Accoya with or without coating.

To obtain a “natural appearance” of an Accoya deck with reduced potential discoloration issues, a translucent non-film-forming coating, an oil-based stain or some other type of hydrophobic agent is an option. Fully weathered, horizontal applications, if coated, deserve special attention to select the best solution.

ABOUT ACCOYA®

Accoya® is the world’s leading high technology wood. It is produced from sustainably sourced, fast growing softwood using a non-toxic modification process from the surface to the core. The result is a durable, stable and beautiful material with the performance characteristics of the most durable tropical hardwoods but with industry-leading environmental credentials.

A new world of sustainable and low maintenance products including windows, doors, decking and cladding is available using Accoya. The exceptional durability provides for a minimum 50 year above ground and 25 year in-ground life.



V 12.15 – these guidelines have been written for professionals wishing to use Accoya to create beautiful, reliable and highly durable end products. Should you require further information or have any comments about this document, please contact Accsys through www.accoya.com.



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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Horizontal surfaces are subject to higher levels of moisture, UV intensity and temperatures. As decks and outdoor furniture undergo wear and tear in their normal use and need to be cleaned, if coated, a seasonal recoat is usually required to maintain colour.

Decking should be designed in such a way that (rain) water is easily drained off and optimal ventilation around the Accoya boards is ensured. Where possible permanently dark and shaded areas should be avoided or given particular attention to reduce moisture build-up.

Exterior horizontal surfaces will also form a biofilm that will hold water and reduce the speed of drying of the board. To prevent a large build-up of such a layer, it is recommended to clean the deck regularly with water and a (soft) brush. Jet washing should be avoided with coated surfaces.

A fully factory applied coating is generally more robust than a (site) brush applied approach. Coating systems should be applied on all sides with a minimum dry film thickness that corresponds to the requirements of the end product and/or paint supplier's instructions.

OILS

Oil-based stains and hydrophobic agents have water repellent properties, but often cannot prevent water uptake on horizontal parts. Please note that oils can be a food source to fungi and thus oils containing a mouldicide are recommended if appearance is an important consideration.

Accoya can absorb a great deal of oil. If you want to minimize absorption, it is recommended that you let the first coat of oil dry before applying additional coats.

FILM-FORMING

These systems are not recommended for decking boards because of possible slip risk and a risk of moisture accumulation when the coating is compromised by mechanical loads. Cleaning these coatings is difficult as moulds often develop within the coating.

When using opaque film-forming systems for outdoor furniture, end grains must be sealed and opaque base coats must include an effective and well applied anti stain blocking primer.

STAINS

As moulds are capable of growing on and also through coating layers, to reduce risk of growth on and beneath the coating, at least the first layer of a stain should contain an effective mouldicidal component to protect the wood from possible disfigurement.

Please be aware of the fact that greying of the Accoya surface, as with other wood species, will also occur when a clear or translucent coating system is used, especially if this coating doesn't contain sufficient UV blockers.

Pigments added to a clear coating system will camouflage mould / yeast disfigurement. However, it is advisable to test a sample area first with pigmented stains, because as with other wood types and being a natural material, the porosity of Accoya may vary.

Using thicker layers will reduce moisture absorption and therefore the risk of mould / yeast growth on and through coatings. This will also lead to a more resilient coating in the sense of wear and tear, and may lead to a longer life expectancy of the coating.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The life expectancy of a decking coating will depend highly on the quality and thickness of the coating layers, the coating colour, regional differences in UV-intensity, the average moisture level and the use intensity.

Whilst a specific life expectancy of any deck coating system can only be given by the coating manufacturer, generally speaking a maintenance interval of more than two years will be rare – in line with other typical deck wood species. A seasonal maintenance involving a re-coat is most common.

- The machining (among which planing and possible sanding) of the Accoya wood may have an influence on the performance of the coating applied.
- For optimum life expectancy of any specific system, please adhere to the maintenance recommendations of the coating manufacturer.
- Generally speaking, regular localised remedial work in areas with high use intensity will prolong the interval for a complete renovation of the coating.
- Regular cleaning (preferably with soft brush and clear water) will help reduce the risk of moulds growing through the coating.
- The ease of cleaning of non-film-forming deck coatings generally improves when the coating is weathered.
- Jet washing should be avoided with coated surfaces as the high pressure water could damage the coating layer and decrease the life expectancy.

Please note that coating formulations vary from supplier to supplier and processes vary depending on the application equipment used and end-product design. Some suppliers' products formulations vary by region.

Despite Accoya wood's excellent compatibility, we highly recommend having your coating manufacturer or supplier involved in the process as they have in-depth knowledge of their products, application and how to determine the performance of the finished product.

General guidelines for best practices on applying coatings can be found in the coating specific brochures and the Wood Information Guide, both available through the download section of accoya.com.