

Subject: Tips For Deck Maintenance This Spring

From: Mike And Chris At Custom Built <info@callcustombuilt.com>

Date: 8/29/2017 2:18 PM

To: dscottcarr@gmail.com



April 12, 2017
Spring Edition

Dream, Design, Peace Of Mind

Keeping Your Deck Looking Great

Take Advantage of The Warm Months To Maintain Your Deck

It is a challenge to keep your deck looking great all year round. This article features specific things you can do throughout the year to properly maintain your deck. Most of the maintenance work on decks in Michigan takes place during the spring and summer. You can do some of these things yourself if you have the correct tools and are up for some hard labor. Or, simply call Custom Built and sit back and relax.



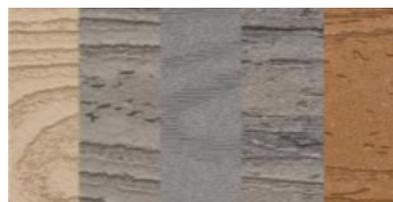
Early Spring: Clean The Deck

The first step to take in the spring is to clean the deck. Unless you keep the deck clean, it will be an open invitation to attract mold and mildew. Accumulating mold and mildew may lead to rot. To clean the deck, begin with removing all of the collected debris. Pay particular attention to twigs, leaves and other items wedged between the boards. Sweep the deck and power wash off the

dirt, mold and mildew. You may want to cover all of the surrounding plants and shrubs with plastic sheeting in order to protect them. For the deep cleaning, you will want to choose a proper cleanser. The cleanser needs to be appropriate for your deck surface (wood, composite or vinyl). Consult an expert on which cleanser is best to use for your specific decking. Likewise, the method of deep cleaning must be tailored to the type of cleanser and the decking surface. A good deal of scrubbing using the proper tools will bring out the shine.

Late Spring: Seal The Deck

After completing the proper cleaning, you will want your deck to sit until it is completely dried out. Depending on the air temperature and the weather



conditions, you may need to wait at least a day or longer. Once thoroughly dry, the deck surface may need some light sanding to remove any rough spots. You will want to look for any popped nails or screws protruding that may need to be put back down. If a lot of sanding was needed, you may need to sweep away the dust. The next step is to apply a quality deck sealer. Once again, we recommend seeking expert help in selecting the proper sealer for your deck. There are clear sealers, toners, semi-transparent stains and solid stains. Selection of the proper sealant should be matched with the type of surface you have and the look that you wish to obtain. Clear sealers may need to be replaced every year while colored stain finishes can last longer.



Mid-Summer: Deck Maintenance

The warm and dry periods of summer are the best time to inspect the structure of the deck. You are looking for signs of rot, instability, loose boards and breakdown in the structure. Be sure to check anywhere that wood meets the ground. The wood should not be spongy, soft or rotted. You can test this by pushing a screwdriver into the wood in those areas. If it gives more than a quarter of an inch, you may have a problem. Have a professional check it more thoroughly if you find any areas of concern.

Begin at the deck stairs and check the stringers and stair posts where they meet the ground. Inspect the ledger board. The ledger is the board that attaches the deck to the side of your house. It should be attached with large lag screws or bolts, not nails. If you have a railing, give it a shake or two. If it seems loose or wobbly, try to investigate the cause. Does it need to be tightened? Are there nails popping out? Sometimes nails can be replaced with heavier fasteners. If the railing is loose all over, it may be time for a whole new deck. Finish up by inspecting all of the other posts, beams and joists on the underside of the deck. If anything looks or seems unusual to you, call in the pros to examine it for you.

Early Fall: Preventative Measures

If you missed cleaning and sealing your deck in the spring, there is still time to do it in the fall. The goal is to get it done while the temperatures are mild. You will want to continue to keep your deck clean and dry through the summer and fall. Try to discourage and avoid leaves and debris that pile up in the corners of your deck. Additionally, if you have planters that sit in the same spot all year round,



move them occasionally. This will help avoid discoloration on the deck from mold and mildew that forms underneath them. Move any tables, chairs or patio furniture around throughout the season. Be sure that your deck has a little breathing room from surrounding plants and shrubs. Trim bushes and trees back at least a foot or so from the deck. This allows moisture to escape and for the deck to dry out after rainy periods. Keeping the deck clean through the season extends the maintenance life of

the deck.



Want Some Advice?

Maintaining your deck doesn't have to be difficult or time consuming. If you need assistance with your deck maintenance this season, we can help! Mike and Chris at Custom Built Design & Remodeling have designed, built and maintained thousands of decks over the years. They are experienced, easy to work with and guarantee what they

do. Give them a call at (517) 881-9871 or send an email to: info@callcustombuilt.com.

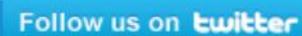
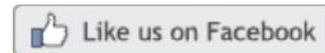
Be Sure To Visit: CallCustomBuilt.com

Custom Built Design & Remodeling

2037 W Grand River, Suite C

Okemos, MI 48864

517-881-9871



Custom Built Design & Remodeling, Suite C,
2037 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos, MI 48864

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@callcustombuilt.com in collaboration with



Try it free today

THIS IS A TEST EMAIL ONLY.

This email was sent by the author for the sole purpose of testing a draft message. If you believe you have received the message in error, please contact the author by replying to this message. Constant Contact takes reports of abuse very seriously. If you wish to report abuse, please forward this message to abuse@constantcontact.com.