

# Timber coatings: what you need to know

**There is a lot of confusion in the market concerning the choice of coatings to use for the preservation and protection of timber decks and other timber structures.**

Deck Doc wishes to inform consumers of the benefits and shortcomings of various products to help them make informed decisions.

There are generally two different types of coatings available, namely solid membrane coatings and absorbing coatings.

## Solid Membrane coatings

These coatings are mostly water-, resin- and urethane-based coatings. These products leave a solid membrane coating on the surface. As timber swells and shrinks caused by the absorption and loss of moisture during the wet/dry weather cycle, this movement of the timber causes these solid membrane coatings to break down, crack and peel. These coatings then become porous, resulting in a greater amount of moisture to be absorbed leaving the timber almost totally unprotected.

In this unprotected state, the timber loses its natural oils and tannins which are the natural preservatives and natural colour of the timber. With the loss of tannins the timber loses its natural colour and to overcome this loss of colour, all solid membrane coatings contain a colour pigment that changes the natural colour of the timber, creating an artificial finish. When these coatings break down, they will mostly require sanding before reapplication.

## Absorbing Coatings

Natural absorbing coatings will penetrate and absorb into the timber. Over time, the weather-exposed surface of the timber will have a build-up of dirt and the surface will appear dull and grey. The major benefit of absorbing coatings is that with occasionally cleaning and re-oiling, it would not be necessary to sand before each application. In addition, most absorbing coatings



Geelong's Deck Doc offers a range of natural absorbing timber coatings for the best, most effective protection.

contain plant oils that are natural preservatives and protection for timber. As there is a vast range of products available, some are sold as natural decking oil, however, few provide adequate timber protection.

Deck Doc is an absorbing coating with the added benefit of lanolin; nature's best water repellent and UV protection.

Deck Doc's unique formula stays soft and

pliable, therefore moves with the timber and will not solidify, crack or peel.

It seals in the tannins from the inside as well as the outside thus preserving and protecting the timber's natural colour.

Deck Doc uses technology to retain the natural oils and tannins which will preserve the natural colour of the timber.

The surface over time will accumulate dirt and

dust. The dust and dirt will be baked on to the surface in areas that are fully exposed to the sun and will present a dark or grey surface. However, this surface dirt is easily removed and it will be found that the natural colour of the timber has been preserved and protected.

A video demonstration, Oil Versus Solid Coatings can be viewed on Deck Doc's website at [deckdoc.com.au](http://deckdoc.com.au).

# DECK-DOC

**Worlds leading Lanolin based Timber Protection Oil**



**LANOLIN**  
NATURE'S BEST  
PROTECTION AGAINST UV

WOOL FLEECE ON SHEEP IS NEVER  
DESTROYED BY MOISTURE OR UV!  
RETAINS TIMBERS NATURAL BEAUTY & COLOUR

We welcome home owners and tradespeople alike to visit our factory showroom.

Free demonstrations and advice on maintaining new decks and restoring weathered decks.

Understand the different types of coatings on the market and how they impact on your timber.

**WE OFFER A DECK & TIMBER CARE SERVICE TO CLEAN, OIL AND STAIN  
FREE QUOTES BY PHONING MEL ON 0499 770 170**

**53-55 Essex St. Moolap. Ph. 5248 8164 · [www.deckdoc.com.au](http://www.deckdoc.com.au)  
Open 10am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday**