

IPE TILE MAINTENANCE



skydeck
— **USA** —
Rooftop Patios. Simply Done.

Our structural wood tiles are constructed exclusively with Brazilian hardwood, which is noted not only for its stability in service but also its long life, hardness, excellent weathering properties and resistance to insect attack. Therefore the tiles can be expected to maintain their attractive appearance over a long period with minimal ongoing maintenance.

APPEARANCE

Brazilian hardwood typically exhibits variation in both color and grain which can vary both from tile to tile and within the individual slats of a single tile. These variations add to the character and overall appearance of the finished project.

STORAGE

If the tiles have been supplied on a pallet with stretch wrapping, all the plastic wrapping should be removed and the pallet left in a shaded or covered position out of direct sunlight until the tiles are installed.

SEALING

As supplied, the wood tiles do not have any sealer or decking oil applied to the surface. However a wax is applied at the ends of the slats to minimize slight cracking or checking. An Ipe wax or edge sealant must be applied to any cut edges of the Ipe to prevent warping and cracking from moisture. Be careful not to apply any sealant to the visible surface of the tile as it may create a visible stain.

We always recommend applying a high quality hardwood oil sealer to the top surface of the tiles as soon as practical after installation which can not only reduce the rate of fading but can to some extent help to mitigate loss of moisture on the top of the wood slats which can minimize small cracking and splitting. Note that a small amount of cracking and splitting can be expected as part of the natural weathering process.

MAINTAINING TILE COLOR

The rate at which the wood color fades depends largely on the degree of exposure to direct sunlight, the climatic conditions and the frequency at which any preservative treatments are applied (ie: Ipe tiles will fade naturally to a silvery grey color if exposed to UV in sunlight).

To slow this natural fading effect and to keep the appearance of the tiles in their optimum condition, as soon as convenient after installing the tiles, we strongly recommend a good quality decking oil is applied with a brush or roller. Decking oils which contain trans-oxide pigments or other proprietary UV absorbing or reflecting compounds and have a high solids content are preferred for longer term results and extended periods between applications of the decking oil/sealant. These specialized products will help maximize the durability, beauty and value of your deck tiles and assist in maintaining the original wood color as long as possible. Some proprietary products will also provide additional protection against mold and mildew.

PERIODIC CLEANING

From time to time, it may be necessary to use a commercial cleaning product to both clean the surface of the deck and kill mold spores. Deck brightening products may also be used, providing you carefully test the product in an inconspicuous area to ensure that it will achieve the results you require.

PRESSURE WASHING

A pressure washer may also be used to remove any built-up of dirt, mold or mildew from the surface of the tiles. Although Ipe wood is an exceptionally hard and dense species, we recommend that you first test the pressure washing on an inconspicuous area.