

06/11/20

Composite Sealer

(Note: Any reference to composites in this data sheet refers to ‘Wood Plastic Composites’ only. Composite sealer is not recommended for use on new age ‘Capped Decking’.)

Composite Sealer is a waterborne protective treatment designed for use over wood/plastic composite substrates.

- **Product:** Composite Sealer
- **Product Code** 888CI-XXXX Four figure suffix denoting Gloss level
- **Standard Colours:** Clear
- **Gloss level** Gloss, Matt
- **Thinning/clean up:** No thinning required, clean up with water.
- **Drying Time** 20-30 minutes touch dry at ambient temperature of 25° C with good ventilation. (Note drying times will be slower in cold damp conditions or if applied in high humidity)
- **Recoat Time** 1-2 hrs
- **Exterior Exposure** 1-2 years depending on degree of traffic, exposure, and pre-existing condition of Sealer surface.
- **Container Size** 4, 10lt
- **Shelf Life** 12 months in original un-opened package
- **Flash Point** Non-Flammable

Uses: **Composite Sealer** has been designed to protect first generation wood plastic composites against food, oil staining and dirt retention whilst restoring water repellency. It is applied over correctly prepared composite wood substrates, worked evenly over the entire surface with lamb’s wool applicator, squeegee mop, brush or roller and allowed to dry off. **Composite Sealer** is quick and easy to use and will enhance the beauty of the composite surface locking in pigmentation and slowing down the ageing process due to effects of water and UV exposure.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Note

- **Do not apply Composite Sealer below 10°C or above 25°C (or surface is too hot to walk on bare foot)**
- **Do not apply with relative humidity above 85% or if rain is imminent**
- **Substrate must be dry. Do not apply on wet or damp Composites**
- **Avoid application in direct sunlight. (to avoid blotchy uneven look, apply over small sections, three full lengths at a time by wool applicator/brush/roller/spray, and immediately wipe off any excess to prevent pooling on the surface).**
- **Do not apply over existing solvent or water-based oils/coatings other than Aqualis Sealer, strip old coatings using Aqualis StripEase refer technical data for instructions.**

New Composites

Brushed side / Smooth side

1. Wash all Composite Wood products by applying **Aqualis Composite Bright** conditioner / treatment solution as per mixing rate of 10:1 as shown on the label. Apply at this volume rate for normal cleaning (Aqualis Composite Bright is a low suds action, deep penetrating conditioner treatment). For stronger treatment concentrations refer to the label or technical data sheet.
2. Once **Aqualis Composite Bright** is applied to the deck or cladding with a mop or, mechanical spray, scrub the surface with a hard bristle broom or mechanical scrubber on larger decks and wash off after approximately **3-5** minutes with clean water.

Weathered Composites

Brushed side / Smooth side

1. Depending on the condition of the surface, this should be treated and prepared as per the steps for new Composite Wood, with the exception that the product may need to be treated a second time to remove all stubborn oxidization, dirt, or stains. This will be a case by case site evaluation.
2. For removal of general soiling or stains on Composite Wood we recommend that they should be treated as soon as possible with **Aqualis Composite Bright** at the recommended strengths as indicated on the label. For old stubborn stains, especially BBQ oil and fat stains, use **Composite Bright** at a stronger concentration. Depending on the age and degree of soiling, a re-application may be required to remove the residue of the oil / fat stain. Thoroughly rinse with water.
3. Allow the surface to dry

Application of Protective Coating

New & Weathered Composites

There are 2 methods of protection that can be applied to Composite Wood screening, decking and furniture. Composite Wood materials will lighten over time surfaces may also be affected by imbedded dirt, stains, or microbial growth and therefore the method of coating should be decided on the degree of deterioration. Also, noting that the finish coating will strengthen the existing colour of Composite Wood substrates.

Method 1. Aqualis Composite Sealer (Clear or Coloured)

Method 2. Aqualis Refresh (colour restoration) & Aqualis Composite Sealer (protective coating)

Method 1 - New Composite sealed with composite sealer

After conditioning and drying the Composite Wood surface as detailed above, apply **Composite Sealer** as follows.

Using a lamb's wool applicator, pressure spray or brush, apply a minimum of 2 coats of **Composite Sealer** of desired colour to enhance slightly faded Composites', or clear Composite Sealer if no colour enhancement is necessary. **Do not** apply as a thick coat, if required apply 3 thin coats to achieve optimum results.

This will slow the effects of UV fading of the Composite Wood substrate and will require a recoat approx. every 1 to 2 years, subject to the geographical location and effects from weather.

Method 2 – Badly faded or previously treated Composites requiring colour restoration

Previously coated composites requiring colour restoration must be stripped back to raw composite using Aqualis **StripEase (refer data sheet or label instructions)**. Composite surface must then be conditioned with Aqualis **Composite Bright** as illustrated above and allowed to thoroughly dry.

When dry, water test the surface of the deck before coating. Sprinkle water on at least three random sections of deck. The water must absorb into the composite leaving a damp patch and not bead on the surface. If water beading occurs or the surface is resistant to water penetration, do not commence coating. Repeat the Composite/rinse treatment and water test to ensure correct surface properties are achieved.

After conditioning and drying the composite wood surface, apply **Aqualis Refresh** and **Aqualis**

Composite Sealer as follows

1 - Coat of Refresh as the first coat. This is to be applied thinly and ensure that the applicator or brush is not over loaded, remove all excess product (this is important), and if the product pools on the surface remove to achieve an even finish. Apply to 3 full length of boards at a time and continue to do this until completed. Depending on the weather conditions, **Refresh** will dry after Approximately 4 hours. To shorten drying time, back wipe the **Refresh** using a dry lamb's wool applicator to remove all excess **Refresh**, (Three boards at a time). For heavy builds on porous Composites it may be necessary to allow for overnight drying. Ensure that you do not walk on wet **Refresh** as this will leave foot marks. If this does happen, simply rub more of the **Refresh** onto the affected area and this will remove any damage, this can be done any time prior to the application of **Composite Sealer**.

Once **Refresh** has dried,

2 - Apply 2 Coats of Composite Sealer, again applying to 3 full length of boards at a time. Using a lamb's wool applicator or brush (washed in water prior to use) apply evenly over the surface to seal in the **Refresh** and re-apply after approximately 1 hour. Do not pool the **Composite Sealer** or apply in direct sun as the composite wood surface may be too hot and will cause the product to flash off too fast. This will create lap marks. Apply either very early in the morning or later in shade, under cover or coat prior to installation. **Do not** apply as a thick coat, best results are achieved by applying up to three thin coats.

For aged Composite Wood

Prepare the surface by treating with **Composite Bright (Cleaner & Conditioner)**.

1. Prepare all Composite Wood products by applying **Composite Bright** treatment solution as per mixing rate of 10:1 as shown on the label. Apply at this volume rate for normal treatment (**Composite Bright** is a low suds action, deep penetrating conditioner treatment). For stronger preparation solutions refer to the label or data sheet.
2. Once the **Composite Bright** is applied to the deck or cladding with a mop or low-pressure mechanical spray, scrub the surface with a stiff bristle broom or mechanical scrubber on larger decks and wash off after approximately **3 - 5** minutes with clean water. Use a squeegee to remove any excess water from the deck as this will also aid in the drying time.
3. When dry, water test the surface of the deck before coating. Sprinkle water on at least three random sections of deck. The water must absorb into the composite leaving a damp patch and not bead on the surface. If water beading occurs or the surface is resistant to water penetration, do not commence coating. Repeat the Composite/rinse treatment and water test to ensure correct surface properties are achieved.
4. Allow the surface to dry

If no colour restoration is required: Apply as per **Method 1 for New Composite Wood** this will seal in the existing colour and protect the surface from UV degradation, dirt, water, and oil staining.

If colour restoration is required: Apply as per **Method 2 for Weathered Composite Wood** this will restore the original colour and protect the surface from UV degradation, dirt, water, and oil staining.

Note: Whatever the application technique, ensure **Composite Sealer** is rubbed evenly over the entire surface. **Composite Sealer** will restore the desired sheen level and protect wood composites from water impregnation. (It is advisable that a small test area is trialed to ensure that good compatibility and adhesion is possible on the wood composite to be coated).

Slip Resistant Finish as per AS 4586-2013 **(As Certified by ATTAR. Reference 15/9596.1 dated 19/11/2015)**

WPC TRACTION

If a slip resistant finish is required to either (P4) for flat surfaces or (P5) for ramps etc., use **H₂Oil Traction** and follow the instructions on the technical data sheet

For further information on product use or product selection, please consult nearest distributor or place of purchase.

Maintenance

Extended exterior durability can be achieved provided Sealer substrate is protected from elements of weather and direct sunlight. Intermittent cleaning with a soft bristle broom every three months with **Aqualis Composite Bright** keeps the surface free from tree sap, dirt, algal or mould growth and will extend the appearance and life of both untreated and treated composite substrates. **Do not clean raw or sealed composite with high pressure water, solvent, or solvent based cleaners.**

Contact manufacturer of composite for advice.

The performance and durability of **Composite Sealer** is ultimately dependent on the condition of the wood composite substrate. It is therefore the discretion of the end user to ensure surfaces are kept clean and coated as required every 12 / 24 mths to ensure extended life. Heavy foot traffic areas exposed to direct sunlight will show obvious signs of wear quicker than shaded, light traffic areas.

When the coated Sealer structure starts to look weathered and or the colour has severely faded, treat with **Composite Bright** and re-apply a maintenance coat of **Composite Sealer**.

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