

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE AND USE OF HARTIKA TARASE SYSTEM

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE OF THE HARTIKA TARASE COMPOSITE DECKING SYSTEM.

We would like to present to you the HARTIKA TARASE terrace system. It is a high-quality product whose raw material formulation has been developed based on the experience and research results of renowned European research institutes in the field of polymers and composites. Our system has received a National Technical Assessment no. 2019/0925 and a fire classification - flame retardant ("B"), as well as a Hygienic Attestation.

The material used in production consists of selected wood dust and PVC polymer (polyvinyl chloride). Thanks to the properties of the material from which the Hartika system is made, it is not necessary to protect it with protective agents such as oil or varnish, which are customarily used for products made of solid wood. It is also not permissible to paint the boards with wood preservatives against fungi and discolouration. This has a negative impact on the surface quality especially in the field of its visual experiences.

As the homogeneous polymer mass is formed in the process of high-temperature extrusion of the polymer-wood mixture, typical soiling occurring during use does not have the possibility to deeply penetrate the board structure and remains on its surface from where it can be easily removed.

The polymers used in the Hartika system are not only environmentally friendly, but above all highly resistant to weathering and chemicals.

ACTIVITIES AFTER COMPLETION OF INSTALLATION WORK.

Immediately after installation, it is advisable to remove all residues from the installation work, i.e. material residues and cutting dust, with a brush and to clean the terrace surface thoroughly. This can be done with water and a non-corrosive detergent, a stiff bristle brush or a pressure washer. It is important to rinse the surface of your new patio thoroughly with water in order to remove any small parts and dirt resulting from the installation process.

It is a good idea to carry out this initial cleaning before the terrace is used, particularly if furniture, plant pots, planters or similar are to be placed on the terrace.

FACTORS AFFECTING COLOUR STABILITY.

The colouring of the boards of the Hartika decking system is the result of the use of appropriately selected colouring pigments. These pigments are distributed throughout the mass of the board during the production process (so-called colouring in the mass), so that the board, even after a deep mechanical cut, is characterised by a uniform colour. In addition, the board material is enriched with substances that protect it against sunlight (UV radiation).

One of the steps in the production process is the brushing of the board's surface, during which its outer layer is mechanically treated. This gives the board a structure similar to natural wood.

The colour and appearance of the boards stabilises for about four weeks after installation. During this time the surface of the boards undergoes natural processes which shape its final colour.

ATTENTION: Places covered by plant pots, flowerbeds or furniture will have a different shade after they have been moved, this is a natural phenomenon. The colour will even out a few weeks after the surface is exposed.



MAINTENANCE OF HARTIKA TERRACE SYSTEM.

The basic principle for the proper maintenance of a Hartika decking system is the regular removal of soiling that occurs during use.

The removal of dirt (food residues, dirt) especially from the grooved part of the board prevents the formation and growth of mould, for which the dirt is a perfect breeding ground. Hartika composite decking is resistant to mould and mildew, however the presence of organic elements has a negative impact on the appearance of the decking, so regular cleaning is recommended.

For cleaning the decking we recommend HARCLEAN, which has been developed and tested on Hartika composite decking. HARCLEAN is available from Hartik's distributors, a list of which and their address details can be found at www.hartika.com.

The surface can also be cleaned using household products such as a brush, water, soap or mild, non-irritating kitchen detergents.

PRIMARY CLEANING (DIRT).

Regular sweeping and rinsing with water is sufficient to keep the terrace clean. Periodic water cleaning is also recommended in order to refresh the entire terrace surface.


If rinsing with water alone does not have the desired effect, we recommend the use of a high-pressure cleaner (max. 60°C, 100 bar, at a minimum distance of 50 cm and jetting along the grooves) as well as the use of HARCLEAN or WPC floor cleaner. The use of rotary nozzles and acidic/alkaline or intensely coloured detergents is not recommended.

Like other soiling, animal faeces can be removed with water, HARCLEAN or other non-irritating detergents or a high-pressure cleaner.

FAT STAINS, RED WINE, FOOD.

Staining from fat and red wine requires a quick reaction because of the particular colour contrast these stains give. For this reason, it is advisable to remove the stains immediately using readily available means such as water and detergent and a cloth or mop. For more serious soiling, we recommend using a rice brush with hard bristles and hot water with HARCLEAN or other detergent.


Commercially available cleaners dedicated to WPC composites can also be used to remove dried grease stains. Please note that stains that are not removed within a sufficiently short period of time will fade slowly on their own, especially in sunny areas.

 **Please follow the principle of removing greasy or colour-intensive contaminants (oils, fats, wine, etc.) as quickly as possible. An immediate reaction prevents the exposed fibres on the surface of the board from penetrating. In most cases, a quick wipe with warm water and available kitchen detergents (e.g. washing-up liquid, non-corrosive detergent) is sufficient.**

BARBECUE, MECHANICAL DAMAGE.

Stains caused by hot ash, charcoal and barbecue briquettes and cigarettes are among the most difficult to remove.

These stains can be removed effectively by rubbing the board surface with an abrasive material (e.g. sandpaper, metal brush or metal wool). The abrasive action affects the original texture of the boards. Therefore, care should be taken to ensure that the abrasion follows the direction of the grooves and brushing. The planks of the Hartika system have homogeneous material throughout the entire cross-section and therefore there is no need to worry about colour changes. Mechanical damage caused by e.g. garden furniture does not change the colour of the decking. If the surface is damaged it is recommended to lightly rub the surface with 60-80 grit sandpaper to even it out.

 **In order to avoid hard-to-remove charcoal and soot marks, it is advisable to place the barbecue on an extra pad.**

MOLD.

Mold and fungi should be removed using water with HARCLEAN or a mild detergent that does not contain intensive dyes. In the case of mold, fungi, green blooms - moss, developing for a long time, cleaning should be repeated several times until the mycelium is completely removed from the surface of the boards. In specialist stores, agents against mold and fungi are available. **If they are used, first check in an inconspicuous place whether the agent does not cause discoloration.**



Always ensure adequate ventilation of the decking (expansion space) and joists in accordance with the current Installation Instructions.

CORROSION.

All original components of the Hartika system have been manufactured from corrosion-resistant materials.



To install the boards, use original Hartika system components (clips, screws, joists, etc.). Using other materials may lead to corrosion and destruction of the fastening elements.

SNOW AND ICE.

To avoid scratching the terrace surface, we recommend using only a plastic shovel to remove snow. Ice should never be removed with sharp tools. Salt can also be used to remove snow and ice, although it leaves marks, but these are easy to remove with normal maintenance.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DIRT REMOVAL.

To remove any stains, both light and heavy, we recommend using the cleaning methods described below:

STAINS						
LIGHT		MEDIUM INTENSIVE		SCORCHINGS		
COLD WATER	WARM WATER	HARCLEAN AGENT OR MILD DETERGENT	HARCLEAN OR OTHER DEDICATED WPC CLEANING AGENT	RICE BRUSH WITH HARCLEAN AGENT OR HIGH-PRESSURE WASHER	SANDBAPER	STEEL WOOL
						STEEL BRUSH

The action of water, detergent and dedicated WPC cleaning agents will be more effective if a brush with hard bristles is used to remove dirt. In each case, cleaning should be carried out in the direction of the grooves. We would like to point out that when using a high-pressure washer, it is necessary to secure the work area, especially the walls and facades surrounding the terrace.



WPC material is resistant to most household detergents available on the market. Particular care should be taken when using acidic substances, which may cause local color changes. Therefore, before using the agent, test its effect on the board surface in an inconspicuous place.

PROTECTING THE SURFACE OF BOARDS.

The Hartika system retains its original features throughout its entire service life and does not require impregnation. Regardless of the aforementioned durability of the Hartika system, it is possible to apply surface protection to the boards using agents dedicated to WPC wood composites.

Such an action may be a good opportunity to refresh the entire surface of the terrace, and it also facilitates subsequent maintenance activities. Protective agents create an additional hydrophobic coating on the surface of the board that makes it difficult for water and other sub-

stances (wine, coffee, drinks, etc.) and particles carried by water (e.g. pollen from plants, dust) to settle.

Protective agents also facilitate the removal of all impurities from the surface of the boards during maintenance activities.

The following chemicals are recommended for Hartika:

SCUDO WPC



The formulation is characterised by its colour-neutrality, which makes it possible to apply it to any type of composite board without a trace. Particularly suitable for light-coloured boards. Creates an invisible hydrophobic film.

REMMERS WPC-IMPRÄGNIER-ÖL



An oil-based impregnator, available in three colours: grey, brown and colourless. Due to its oily base, it penetrates deep into the wood fibres and thus protects the decking permanently against moisture. Particularly suitable for darker-coloured boards, which are deepened by the oil content.



When using Hartika board surface protectants, always follow the recommendations of the product manufacturer.

CONTACT.

Customer service is available at:
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