



## TANNIN, WATER OR RUST STAINS

Although not very common, sometimes temporary bluish-black “tannin” stains can develop on ChoiceDek® decking.

**Please note that tannin stains are temporary and will weather out naturally.**

Most often, tannin oils are washed out of plant matter or debris as it dries. Sometimes tannin stains are the result of a reaction between the hardwood fiber in ChoiceDek, iron salts and moisture. Iron salts can come from many wood extractive sources – nails and fasteners, metal banding, patio furniture, even saw blades and tools used during construction. These stains will naturally fade over time or can be quickly removed with a deck cleaner containing oxalic acid (commonly known as wood brighteners). Using a deck cleaner containing oxalic or phosphoric acid may lighten your deck. Follow manufacturer’s instructions.

**PRO TIP:** Since these cleaners will temporarily lighten the overall color of your deck, it is recommended that you clean the entire deck surface with them.

Lower-quality steel fasteners or electroplated screws are not recommended as they may not last as long as the deck boards and they can also create temporary stains your deck. On newly installed decks, runoff from metal objects, such as lawn furniture or decorative iron railings can create some temporary staining as well. These rust stains can also be easily removed with the use of a deck cleaner containing phosphoric or oxalic acid (ingredients will be listed on the front label or on the label on the back of the container).

*\*\*Follow all package directions for proper usage, safety precautions and disposal. In some cases, more stubborn stains will require reapplying cleaners until the desired level of cleanliness is achieved. At times, brushing the deck with a hard bristle brush may be necessary to remove any stubborn staining. Excessive scrubbing may cause a temporary scuff mark that will weather away. Always test chosen cleaners in a small inconspicuous area of your deck for approved results. **Never mix any other cleaners (ammonia, phosphoric acid, etc.) with bleach.***

If you have any questions or concerns about cleaning or caring for your deck please contact customer service at 800.951.5117.