



Wood Tile Care & Maintenance Instructions

Bison Wood Tiles give warmth, excellent resistance to weather and architectural charm to roof decks and more. All Bison Wood Tiles are made from tropical hardwoods and are the ideal long-lasting, low maintenance decking alternative. This instruction guide is intended to be used in conjunction with Bison Wood Tile Specification Section 07760.

Bison Innovative Products does not manufacture cleaning/maintenance products. Bison provides the information contained herein to its customers as an information source only. The products identified may have chemicals that cause reactions in certain individuals. Bison strongly recommends the use of safety glasses, respirators, and gloves in handling any materials that contain chemicals. Always test a small area prior to the use of any cleaning/maintenance product to determine whether the product you are about to apply serves its intended purpose. Refer to product MSDS for more information.

PROJECT CONDITIONS

- There are no temperature restriction guidelines prescribed by Bison Innovative Products that limit deck installation work other than the practical considerations of working in unsafe or inclement weather.
- Bison tiles and deck supports listed in this section are for use with pedestrian traffic only.
- Bison Wood Tiles installed over cavity heights greater than 16" (406 mm) may need bracing support, particularly in high seismic areas. Contact Bison Innovative Products for more information.

INSTALLATION

Bison Wood Tile Pavers can be installed over joist systems or over Bison pedestal supports. This guide is intended for use with Bison Specifications and product details, available from BisonIP.com. Reference these documents for complete installation instructions.

Ensure tiles are supported at a minimum of 2.5" x 2.5" (64 x 64 mm) area at each corner, and install with the Bison FS1 Fastening Kit. Use Bison spacer tabs to ensure adequate spacing and corner support area. Install in accordance with Engineer's design and manufacturer's instructions.

General Safety Precautions: Wear safety glasses with side shields when handling, cutting, sanding, or grinding this material. Use a face shield for processes that may generate excessive dusts and splinters. Wear puncture resistant work gloves, such as leather when handling. Respirators must be worn if the ambient concentration of airborne contaminants exceeds prescribed exposure limits. Dust masks may be worn to avoid the inhalation of nuisance dust. Dust masks are not adequate protection in environments above the occupational exposure limit. Cutting, Grinding, or Sanding should be done outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Refer to product MSDS for more information.

Storage: Keep product out of direct sunlight until it is ready to be installed. Wood tiles should not be stored tightly wrapped in plastic. Bison wood tiles will adjust to the climate where they are installed and may have or develop some slight cracking or checking.

Cutting: Carbide or diamond tipped blades are highly recommended. Bison wood tiles have a very high density and a slower feed rate is recommended when cutting tiles. In order to minimize checking (small cracks) the installer should consider sealing any cut ends with an appropriate glue or end sealer specifically designed for use on exterior wood. Apply sealer with a foam brush to the cut ends only, being very careful to not get any on the top surface of the wood.

Reassembly: To reassemble tiles after cutting, the installer must pre-drill holes from the bottom, using a carbide drill bit designed to extract stock during drilling. Exercise caution to not drill through the top surface. In addition, use only stainless steel screws which are durable and provide maximum fastening power.

Fastening: Bison Wood Tiles are held in place by gravity, the Bison FS1 Fastening Kit* (*patent pending) and Bison pedestal tabs. The Bison pedestal/wood tile system installs quickly and securely and allows for removal later if required. The FS1 Fastening Kit, available exclusively from Bison, fastens wood tiles to the pedestals without penetrating or damaging the wood.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF WOOD TILES

Bison strongly recommends the use of safety glasses and puncture resistant gloves when handling. Always test a small area prior to the use of any cleaning/maintenance product to determine whether the product you are about to apply serves its intended purpose. Follow cleanser manufacturer's instructions and precautions.

Visual Observation: Bison Wood Tiles are a natural material and can absorb or loose moisture in different climates. **Wood Characteristics:** Bison Wood Tiles are made of Ipê and Massanduba hardwoods which contain a rich variety of graining and coloration and are exceptionally dense and resistant to insects. The natural shading, coloration and graining variations add to the architectural character and overall visual appeal of the finished product.

Cleaning: If desired, Bison Wood Tiles can be periodically cleaned. Bison recommends using a deck cleaning product which safely cleans the wood and also kills mold spores. The deck tiles are ready to re-seal once they are cleaned. **Important:** Bison Innovative Products recommends that you test any cleaners or sealants in an inconspicuous area first before applying them to the installed deck.

Sealing & Staining: Wood stabilizers or sealants can help mitigate the loss of moisture on the top of the boards and minimize checking and splitting. Cleaning and/or sanding the surface of the wood prior to applying the sealer can help the product penetrate deeper into the woodgrain. Due to the extreme density of the tropical hardwood used, all of the applied product may not be absorbed. Follow manufacturer's recommendations to gently wipe off the excess stain for a more even uniform appearance. The installer can also lightly apply glue or end sealer specifically designed for exterior wood to the ends if desired to help prevent splitting. Note: small checks and splits are normal and a natural part of the wood. The following manufacturers offer cleaning and sealing products specifically designed for use with exotic hardwoods: Cabots, Defy, Penofin, Messmers & Thompsons.

Reapplying Sealers and Stains: During the the first year after initial installation, Bison recommends reapplying the stain or sealant product every four months. Thereafter a yearly application is recommended for optimal results.

Sanding: When using smooth finish tiles, a light sanding is recommended prior to sealing or staining your tropical hardwood deck to expose more of the wood grain. Use 80 grit sandpaper to lightly sand the wood tiles and thus reduce the appearance of any minor marks, scratches or surface imperfections. After sanding, sweep the tiles and use water to rinse away any remaining dust and allow to dry thoroughly before applying sealer. Exercise caution when sanding wood with the scuff resistant surface. Sanding ribbed texture tiles may slightly affect the absorption of sealers or oils in the grooves. **Important:** Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.

Maintaining Tile Color: To better maintain the rich coloration of the tiles, you can apply a penetrating oil finish with UV blocker. These products offer UV protection as well as mold and mildew protection. Before applying any finish, first clean and remove any residue from the wood tile as described above and as recommended by the product manufacturer. After your initial coat is applied, an annual maintenance coat will help keep the coloration vibrant for years to come. **Important:** Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.

Natural Wood Aging: Left to weather naturally and, depending on climatic conditions, Bison wood tiles will develop a silvery-gray patina. If you prefer this look, Bison recommends that a coat of wood stabilizer be applied after installation. Some products provide UV protection, allowing your wood tiles to acclimate more uniformly as weather and environmental conditions season the deck. Note: each board has unique characteristics and will weather at different rates. The amount of direct and indirect sunlight, temperature, humidity, moisture and other local conditions will factor into the time and shading of the deck.

Commercial Buffing Machines: Commercial floor scrubbers or floor buffing machines are not recommended due to their potential to damage pavers and pedestals with their movement mechanisms.

Pressure Washing: You may also use a pressure washer to remove built-up dirt, mold or mildew from your wood tiles. **Caution:** use the lowest PSI for the species of wood you are cleaning. A maximum of 1200 PSI is suggested for Bison Wood Tiles. Bison also recommends using a professional deck cleaning contractor. **Important:** Test an inconspicuous area first and be careful to use the wand in even strokes to avoid lap marks.

Snow Removal - Sweeping: A stiff-bristled broom is the recommended method for removing snow from a wood deck, as it causes the least damage to your decking material. The use of mechanical snow scoopers and blowers is not recommended on Bison Wood Tiles or Bison pedestal products.

Snow Removal - Shoveling: Never use a metal shovel, as this can gouge, scrape or otherwise cause damage the decking material. Use a plastic shovel, and shovel along the length of the deck boards (instead of across) to minimize damage to the wood grain. Avoid chipping away at ice with a shovel or pick, as this can also damage the decking material. Small or narrow plastic shovels may be purchased to help get into tighter areas such as stairs and still move with the grain of the decking.

Ice removal: Salts or de-icers should never be used on a natural wood deck because of the corrosive nature of the salt. De-icers come in a range of compositions, including Sodium Chloride (NaCl), Magnesium Chloride (MgCl₂), Calcium Chloride (CaCl₂) and Potassium Chloride (KCl) as well as many other more expensive components. These chemicals can erode any waterproof stain or finish and leave water marks on the wood itself. Wood absorbs and releases moisture and expands and contracts over time. De-icers absorb most of the moisture in natural materials, which makes the wood more brittle and will cause additional cracking and checking. As an alternative, carefully pour hot water over the iciest areas of the deck and use your outdoor broom to remove the ice and excess water. Sand or kitty litter can be spread over the deck to help prevent more ice from building up although this may be tracked indoors.