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04 June 2007

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: USE OF DECKWOOD AROUND SWIMMING POOLS

### Suggested Ongoing Maintenance.

- 1. Oiling.** When care is taken at the design stage it can avoid the common structural issues that lead to premature failure of decks and the extremely high costs associated with premature replacement. The decking will last longer if it can be oiled regularly especially when it is new and surface degradation has not occurred. CN oil is a very robust timber oil but is probably too robust for around a pool. We now recommend Tanacoat for initial as well as future coats as it dries quickly without an oily film. A case history of the oiling of the already partly degraded timber on the Cairns Esplanade and Lagoon deck can be downloaded from our website at [http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/tanacoat\\_case\\_history.pdf](http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/tanacoat_case_history.pdf) The salt water around the pool is hard on any timber finish and this area will need more regular attention.

How often should this be done? The usual descriptions such as "when the timber is dry and hungry looking" are not specific. Basically oil needs to be applied when water is not being repelled. Around a salt-water pool we have found it needs to be applied more often than an ordinary deck as the salt is a natural drying agent. One client with a similar deck around a pool orders oil every 3 months so, based on their experience I expect an application every 3-4 months. Tanacoat is so simple to apply, it is just sprayed on (so there are no wet patches) from a garden sprayer and dries very quickly. A number of light coats is preferable to one heavy coat. There is no skill involved.

- 2. Raised grain.** If a piece of timber is going to perform uncharacteristically this happens generally within the first six months, We suggest that you monitor the deck surface regularly and, if the need arises, simply remove any raised grain with a small angle grinder fitted with a sanding pad and re-apply Tanacoat. A small number of boards may have to be replaced.

The natural sawn surface finish of the decking is, we believe, the appropriate finish as it can offer a degree of slip resistance.

Regards

Ted Stubbersfield