Bulletin 4 – Softwood vs Hardwood Deck Maintenance Guide

Softwood (Pine, Cedar, Spruce)

Characteristics
Softer fibers
More porous
More prone to furring and gouging
Cleaning Guidelines
Pressure: 3.4–5.5 MPa (500–800 PSI)
SPC concentration: 1–2%
Nozzle: 40°
Dwell time: 10–15 minutes

Maintenance Frequency
Clean yearly
Brighten yearly
Stain every 1–2 years (oil-based recommended)

Hardwood (Ipe, Mahogany, Oak, Tigerwood)

Characteristics
Dense grain
Less absorbent
Requires stronger cleaning and higher PSI
Cleaning Guidelines
Pressure: 5.5–8.3 MPa (800–1,200 PSI)
SPC concentration: 2–3%
Nozzle: 25°–40°
Dwell time: 15–20 minutes

Maintenance Frequency
Clean yearly
Brighten yearly
Stain every 6–12 months (penetrating oils only)