



the easy alternative

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON MODWOOD

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**What is ModWood?** ModWood is a composite product made essentially from a mixture of ground sawdust (also known as wood-flour) and plastic (we actually use recycled plastic milk bottles). It contains over 50% wood (the sawdust), recycled plastic, and the balance being additives, stabilizers, bonding agents, pigments etc.

**What is the moisture resistance of ModWood?**

Being an extruded blend of wood and plastic, ModWood has excellent water resistance. However, it should be noted that ModWood is not designed to “live in water” – this will eventually lead to moisture absorption and can cause the product to swell.

**Can ModWood be used in tropical areas?** There are some restrictions on using ModWood hollow profile decking in tropical and rainforest areas.

Please refer to our website for further information.

**Does ModWood need ventilation?** Yes, like timber, it is important to provide adequate ventilation to ensure ModWood is able to dry out after being wet.

For this reason it is very important to pay attention to clearance on butt joints (end to end), spacing between boards (side by side), and minimum ground clearances. Lack of ventilation can cause the product to swell over time. Check product fixing instructions for information on ventilation requirements.

**Will it warp?** ModWood decking will not warp provided it is used and fixed in line with fixing instructions. ModWood mini board can in some circumstances, show slight deflection between uprights.

**Does it splinter?** Although there are thousands of wood fibres at the surface of ModWood products, ModWood manufacturing technology uses micro-fibres that are far too small and blunt to be a splinter. This is ideal for small children.

**How do I fix ModWood?** Whilst ModWood has many fixing similarities to natural timber, there are a few subtle differences that must be observed.

Please check fixing instructions for this information on [www.modwood.com.au](http://www.modwood.com.au)

**What are its weathering characteristics?**

ModWood is pre-coloured during the manufacturing process with extremely light-fast pigments. During the first couple of months’ exposure to weather, the initial colour of the product will lighten somewhat, before

stabilising to a more natural timber-like appearance that needs no painting or staining. “Brushed” finished products will only show minimal colour change with exposure to weather.

For more information on weathering processes and indicative colour differences check our website.

**How does ModWood compare with timber in terms of surface temperature?** Tests have shown ModWood has a similar surface temperature to timber of similar colours and finishes.

**Is it UV Protected?** Much care has been taken to ensure that ModWood decking products have a high degree of UV stability with a modern, multi-functional UV stabilisation system.

**Can ModWood be used for joists?** No, whilst ModWood products have excellent durability, the plastic component in the product does not allow ModWood the properties required to enable it to be classed as a “load bearing” product.

**Is it scratch resistant?** Due to excess lubricants on the surface of the product, ModWood can show scuffs and scratches when new.

By rubbing on light decking oil with a clean rag the marks will be less noticeable. Exposure to the weather will see the board fade to its natural colour, thus hiding scuff and scratch marks.

The “brushed” finish available in decking boards provides a more textured “timber-like” finish and does not easily show scuffs and scratches. This is recommended if the product is intended for use under 100% shade.

The brushed finish can be wire-brushed or sanded with coarse sandpaper to remove scratches. The area you brush will quickly fade out and hide your repair.

**What is ModWood’s fire rating?** ModWood will burn like most timbers.

It has been tested by the CSIRO for ignitability, flame propagation etc and found to be of a performance somewhere between softwood and hardwood. We are working on developing flame retardant formulations.

**Is it termite resistant?** Termite resistance of ModWood has been tested by the CSIRO against two of the most common species in Australia. ModWood has been found to give superior termite resistance - enough to be classed as a “termite control” product.

All product performance claims are based on ModWood products being used as recommended and installed in accordance with ModWood’s minimum fixing specifications. November 2007

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**Is ModWood slippery?** As ModWood decking is extruded as a finished product, various lubricants are added to the product to allow a smooth extrusion. This can result in a slightly glossy surface at manufacture. Whilst the smooth finish is rarely thought of as being slippery, the “brushed” finish available in decking boards provides a more textured “timber-like” finish and provides an excellent non-slip feel. ModWood surface finish can be upgraded to ‘W’ rated anti slip standards by application of Stepon Safety Surfaces Spectrum.

**Is ModWood suitable for use around swimming pools?** As decking around pools and spas is by nature subjected to higher than normal moisture, and as these areas are also often subjected to reduced ventilation, it is recommended that only ModWood solid section decking be used in a pool and spa environment.

**Can ModWood be used by the sea?** ModWood is ideal in a marine environment, being unaffected by the salt air.

### **How can I clean and maintain ModWood?**

ModWood is relatively maintenance free, however, regular cleaning is important in keeping the deck to look great. Sweeping and cleaning with normal household cleaners containing sodium hypochlorite is usually adequate to keep your deck looking great. “Sugar-soap” mixed with water works particularly well. If that doesn’t work, you can try Intergrain Reviva. Stubborn (usually oil-based) stains can be difficult to remove – we find that water-diluted degreaser works well – scrub in and wash off after a few minutes. Periodic cleaning of expansion joints is also recommended. Refer to website under Care & Maintenance for more detail.

**Can I paint or stain my ModWood?** Due to its wood-fibre base, ModWood will accept oil-based stains. However the plastic component of ModWood (especially the brushed finish) can make full adherence of some coatings difficult, until it is fully weathered. Before painting ModWood, it should be given a coating of Taubmans Prep Right oil-based tropical grade wood primer.

**Do water marks appear on ModWood?** Being a wood based product, ModWood may experience a naturally occurring process called Extractive Bleeding. This process may cause a temporary discoloration that will fade away with exposure to further weather. In most cases this process takes 8-10 weeks but could vary depending on location and specific application such as a covered porch. If you wish to quickly clean these areas on your ModWood deck, you can use a product such as Intergrain Reviva.

This needs to be water diluted and used carefully as bleaching of the boards is possible if the instructions on the pack are not followed.

**Is ModWood mould resistant?** ModWood is generally

quite resistant to mould, however as it has a wood-fibre base, mould and mildew can grow on the deck in some circumstances, especially damp shaded areas, or if it “sweats” under the plastic cover (especially in rain) before installation. Clean as per directions under “Cleaning/Maintenance”. Intergrain Reviva has proven to be very successful as well.

We have also found a product known as “Wet & Forget” to work very well.

**What joist span do I use?** Some ModWood products have different joist spans to similar timber products.

Please check fixing instructions for relevant products on our website.

### **What are the standard colours and sizes?**

ModWood decking is available in three standard colours: - Redwood, Tallowwood and Grey.

Current sizes are:

Decking Solid	– 137 x 23mm x 5.4 metre
	– 88 x 23mm x 5.4 metre
(Marina board)	– 137 x 32mm x 4.2 metre
Decking Hollow	– 88 x 23mm x 4.8 metre
Screening (Mini board)	– 68 x 17mm x 4.8 metre

Colours may vary from batch to batch, however different batches of the same colour will weather to within a commercially acceptable tolerance.

**How do I cover the “hollow” ends?** With ModWood products that have hollow sections, it is common to cover exposed ends with “end-caps” (available in all colours). To give the best effect, it is suggested that end-caps be glued in.

**Can I use ModWood for screening?** ModWood has a specific product (68 x 17mm) for use as screening. Other ModWood solid boards (but not hollow) may also be used for screening. Check the ModWood website for specific fixing instructions.

### **Are there special tools required for working with ModWood?**

With ModWood you can use standard power saws and drills. As with using any power tools, safety glasses and face masks should be used when cutting or drilling ModWood. The ModWood “sawdust” is a coarse, heavy sawdust that doesn’t tend to “float” in the air. This makes it very safe for handling.

### **How should ModWood be stored and handled?**

Whether at the timber merchant premises or at your own home awaiting installation, ModWood should be stored in a dry, flat area under roof. Failure to keep packs dry in storage can lead to the growth of mould spores on boards. When moving product around, ModWood should be carried on its edge.

**Is ModWood guaranteed?** ModWood Technologies P/L offers a limited ten-year Residential and a seven-year Commercial warranty. Please visit our website at [www.modwood.com.au](http://www.modwood.com.au) for warranty information.

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