

07-09-2025

Traction WPC

As per AS/NZS 4586-2013

Traction WPC is a waterborne protective coating designed for use over Wood Plastic Composite (WPC) substrates to provide slip protection.

- **Product:** Traction WPC
- **Product Code:** 888TR-XXX (Three figure suffix denoting Gloss level and size)
- **Standard Colour:** Clear, Natural, Slate Grey, Silver Gum
- **Gloss level:** Matt
- **Spread Rate:** Approximately 15 m²/lt per coat.
- **Application Tools:** 10 to 12 napp Micro Fibre or Mohair roller or brush
- **Thinning/clean up:** No thinning required, clean up with water.
- **Drying Time** 20-30 minutes touch dry at ambient temperature of 25° C with good ventilation. (Note drying times will vary depending on climatic conditions and film builds)
- **Full Cure** **Up to 30 days on smooth composites.** Foot traffic is ok after 24 hours, but care must be taken during this period not to drag furniture, pots, or heavy items across the floor.
- **Recoat Time:** 1-2 hours (30-50 microns dry film thickness, heavier builds will require longer drying times)
- **Exterior Exposure:** 12-18 months (provided surface is maintained periodically with Deck Bright)
- **Container Size:** 4lt, 10lt
- **Shelf Life:** 12 months in original un-opened package
- **Flash Point:** Non-Flammable

Uses: **Traction WPC** has been formulated with high transparency to deliver a natural look whilst providing slip resistance. It is designed to provide a full slip resistance P4 or P5 rating as per AS/NZS 4586-2013. as a wet surface pendulum test. **Traction** is quick and easy to use and can be used as a tinted sealer to further protect WPC Composite surfaces or as part of the full Aqualis protection/colour restoration process.

SLIP RATING

Horizontal Surfaces

For flat surfaces around swimming pools, light foot traffic areas etc., apply **Traction WPC P4** grade to achieve **P4 wet slip rating**, as per **AS/NZS 4586-2013**, however, extreme care should always be taken when walking on wet surfaces, especially around swimming pools. Traction P4 will leave a low-profile grit finish.

Sloping surfaces, ramps, stairs, or high foot traffic areas

Use **Traction WPC P5** grade which achieves a **P5 wet slip rating**. Traction WPC P5 leaves the surface with a higher-profile grit finish and hence, increased slip resistance.

Sealing the surface will slow the effects of UV fading and will require a recoat approx. every 12 to 18 months. As there is a slip medium added to the sealer, attention will be needed to ensure that the full slip rating is maintained. A fresh recoat may be required to areas of high traffic volume at any time.

General Recommendations

- Do not apply Traction below 10°C or above 25°C, a hot surface will cause the product to flash off too fast. This will create surface defects such as lap marks, to prevent this from happening, apply either early in the morning or later in the afternoon shade, under cover or coat prior to installation. (Generally, if the surface is too hot to walk on bare foot, do not seal.) Alternatively, temperatures below 10°C will greatly slow down the curing process and may lead to film defects.
- Do not apply with relative humidity above 85% or if rain is imminent, this may affect the curing process and may cause drying problems and overall product performance.
- Substrate must be dry. Do not apply on wet or damp surface.
- Avoid application in direct sunlight. (To avoid blotchy uneven look, apply over small sections (three full lengths at a time). Apply by brush or roller (Micro Fibre, Mohair) Traction evenly, do not allow to pool on the surface)
- Do not apply over existing solvent or water-based oils/coatings other than Aqualis products, strip old coatings using Aqualis StripEase refer technical data for instructions.
- Not recommended for use on polymer capped 2nd generation composites such as Capped Stock.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Generally imported composites are supplied 'Brushed' (lightly sanded) and can be readily coated with **Traction WPC** or **Composite Sealer**. ModWood®, a leading Australian manufacturer of composites, offers a 'Natural Grain' finish with a 'Brushed' side and a 'Smooth' side. Please follow the guidelines for Brushed versus Smooth as detailed below.

Brushed side

1. Thoroughly pre-wet the surface, surrounding walls and vegetation with water. Mix 10 parts water to 1 part **Composite Bright** by volume. Apply the diluted solution using a mop, brush, or spray.
2. Scrub surface with a hard bristle broom or for large areas, a mechanical deck scrubber, ensure all spots and blemishes have been removed. Wash off after approximately **3-5** minutes with clean water from garden hose jet. (Do not use a high-pressure Gernie or Karcher wand with a nozzle as this may damage the composite leaving swirl marks and lines). Allow at least one hour to surface dry.
3. If composite is ModWood® 'Natural Grain'.... 'Brushed side' up, **Traction WPC** can be applied immediately once the cleaning procedure has dried off.

Smooth side

1. For ModWood® Natural Grain.... 'Smooth side' up, it is recommended to lightly sand the surface. Sand along the length of the board following the direction of the grain removing approximately 1-2 mm using 60-80 grit sanding pad or paper. (Wear appropriate dust mask and eye protection)
2. Thoroughly pre-wet the surface, surrounding walls and vegetation with water. Mix 10 parts water to 1 part **Composite Bright** by volume. Apply the diluted solution using a mop, brush, or spray.
3. Scrub surface with a hard bristle broom or for large areas, a mechanical deck scrubber, ensure all spots and blemishes have been removed. Wash off after approximately **3-5** minutes with clean water from garden hose jet. (Do not use a Gernie or Karcher high pressure cleaner nozzle as this may damage the composite by leaving swirl marks or lines). Allow at least one hour to surface dry.

Absorption Test

After the surface has been prepped and is dry, water test the surface before coating. Pour 50 ml of water on at least three random sections of deck and allow to sit for 15min. Wipe off water and check for any dampness or shadowing. If water beading occurs or the surface is resistant to water penetration, do not commence coating. Repeat the sanding procedure to ensure water penetrates the surface and is not repelled.

Mould Problem Areas

Microbial growth is dependent on several factors, generally poor ventilation, persistent moisture, dirt pickup, organic debris from surrounding vegetation, climatic conditions etc. If microbial growth is persistent, the cause may be site or structurally specific and may need to be addressed to eliminate the problem. Conditions which include environmental, lingering dampness, poor soil drainage, inadequate ventilation, structural faults, no moisture barrier, lack of maintenance or a combination of which may all contribute to mould, mildew, algae, or lichen regrowth and ultimately damage and costly repairs. Treating the surface may intermittently minimize microbial regrowth on the 'surface', however, beneath the surface will continue to be a problem so long as the root cause has not been eliminated.

Never apply Traction WPC directly onto a mould infested surface.

After surface has been cleaned/sanded as per Prepping Instructions, allow the surface to completely dry before treating with Diluted **No Fungal Pro** solution. Follow all label or Technical Data Sheet instructions.

TRACTION APPLICATION PROCEDURE

New Wood Plastic Composite

Traction WPC may be applied as either clear or coloured to Wood Plastic Composite surfaces. Wood Plastic Composites may lighten over time, surfaces may also be affected by imbedded dirt, stains, or microbial growth and therefore the method of coating should be decided on the degree of deterioration. Also, note that **Traction WPC** may strengthen or deepen the existing colour of the treated surfaces.

After cleaning and drying the Wood Plastic Composite as detailed above, apply **Traction WPC** as follows:
Application Equipment: 10 to 12 napp Mohair or Micro Fibre roller

- Apply first coat to 3 full lengths of board at a time ensuring an even coating of the grit is applied. Do not push down too hard on the roller as this will cause the grit to drop out in clumps on the surface. Using a roller will impart more product on the surface and therefore may slow down drying times.
- Allow thorough drying for approximately 1-2 hours or as required depending on weather conditions/film builds and repeat a coat of sealer as detailed above, apply 3 coats to achieve optimum slip results.

Previously treated WPC Composites requiring colour restoration.

- If previously sealed with **Aqualis Composite Sealer** and no lifting or flaking has occurred, simply wash the deck using Aqualis **Deck Bright**, follow the technical data sheet guidelines and once dry **Traction WPC** can be applied directly over the existing sealed surface.
- Apply two coats of Traction WPC as detailed for New Wood Plastic Composite.
- Previously sealed surfaces which have not been sealed in Aqualis Product must be sanded back approximately 1-2 mm using 60-80 grit sanding pad or paper. or stripped back to raw composite using Aqualis **Strip Ease (refer data sheet or label instructions)**.
Surface must then be cleaned with **Composite Clean** as illustrated under 'Cleaning Procedure' and allowed to dry. Check the surface for poor water absorption with the absorption test method detailed in 'Surface Preparation', if water fails to leave a damp shadow it is recommended to lightly sand to ensure good adhesion, as detailed above under 'Smooth Side Preparation' before application of **Traction WPC** can proceed.
- Apply three coats of Traction WPC as detailed for New Wood Plastic Composite.

Aged or weathered composite

- Faded surfaces requiring colour restoration must be cleaned with **Composite Clean** as illustrated under 'Cleaning Procedure' and allow thorough drying before applying **Traction WPC**. Badly aged or weathered surfaces may need to be lightly sanded approximately 1-2 mm using 60-80 grit sanding pad or paper to remove any oxidation or bleaching.
- Apply three coats of Traction WPC as detailed for New Wood Plastic Composite.

MAINTENANCE

Traction WPC is formulated to slowly erode away and not peel if applied in accordance to recommendations set out in this data sheet. If protected from direct sunlight and with light foot traffic **TRACTION WPC**, may only need to be recoated once every 2-4 years. Fully exposed, **Traction WPC** will require a regular maintenance programme every 1-2 years. Intermittent cleaning every three months with Aqualis **Deck Bright** keeping the surface free from algal, mould or lichen growth, tree sap and dirt will also extend the life of the coating. **Do not clean sealed surface with alcohol, bleach, solvent or solvent based cleaners.**

Although all raw materials used in this product exhibit excellent U.V. resistance, the coating film itself cannot prevent coating from wearing away from long term exposure to direct sunlight or heavy foot traffic. Coated surfaces should be periodically checked for signs of weathering or damage which may include fading of colour, dry patches, deep scratches, water ingress or staining. Early signs of surface defects should be repaired immediately. Treat the surface with **Deck Bright** and apply a maintenance coat of **TRACTION WPC**, as illustrated above to extend durability.

For further information on product use or product selection, please consult nearest distributor or place of purchase or refer to the Aqualis Web site.

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