

Winter-Time Care of an Outdoor Deck



By Neil Thorslund

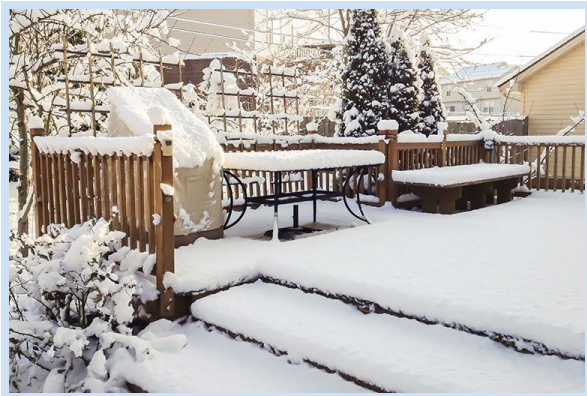
"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

— **Percy Bysshe Shelley**

Do I need to remove the snow from my deck?

It is not essential to remove snow from your deck if you do not plan on using it during the winter-time. Decks are designed to withstand large amounts of weight, so the structure will not be affected by snow and ice ^[1]. Composite decks are waterproof, and do not need any sort of varnish. Wood sealant products are available to prevent wood from weathering ^{[1][2]}.

However, if your deck can provide a fire-escape route for your house, it is important to keep it clear of ice and snow ^[1].



What is the best way to remove snow?

If there is only a light dusting of snow, the best way to remove it is with a broom. If the snow is heavier, use a **plastic shovel**, and push the snow parallel to the deck boards. If the snow is pushed perpendicular to the boards or a metal shovel is used, there is a risk of scratching the deck ^[2].



What is the best way to remove ice?

Using a hammer or other tools to break up ice on the deck is not recommended, as the risk of damaging the deck is quite high.

Using salts such as calcium chloride for a composite deck can be quite effective, however these salts can be harmful for wood decks. Ice melting products are available for wood decks that will not damage the wood ^[2].



"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

— **Percy Bysshe Shelley**

