

Timber Leaching

What is Leaching?

Leaching is the release of natural tannins from hardwood timber and mostly occurs when the product is new. When moisture, water or rain penetrates the timber it will bring the tannins to the surface. When this occurs, it is usually visible as a brown stain, most often on concrete surfaces. Despite the kiln drying process for hardwoods with a moisture level at industry standards, leaching will still occur when coming in contact with moisture for the first 1-5 times. This includes rain, hosing down etc.

Can leaching be stopped?

Unfortunately, there is very little that can be done to stop leaching. To reduce the impact of any leaching that may occur, it may help to leave the furniture out in the weather (rain) for a week or so (e.g. on a grass area). Before placement in the final position, we recommend that the timber is hosed down or water blasted while placed on a natural surface such as grass, dirt etc. or on a plastic drop-sheet / tarpaulin. This process may need to be repeated 2-3 times to ensure all the tannins have been released.

How to wash/clean leaching away?

If you have installed furniture and leaching has stained your concrete surface or steel frames of the furniture, it is imperative to wash this off as soon as possible. The powder coated surfaces on the product can usually be cleaned by simply wiping with a damp rag. Concrete surfaces can be cleaned with undiluted bleach on the affected area (always try on an inconspicuous test area first). Scrub the bleach in and let it soak for 20mins, then wash it away thoroughly with warm water and a broom.

Responsibility

Unfortunately leaching is an unavoidable natural reaction. No timber mill, manufacturer or furniture supplier can take the responsibility of leaching. Astra Street Furniture (Area Safe Products) will do the best we can to warn, educate and inform our customers of this happening however necessary precautions should be taken from the installer to avoid any potential damage (staining) as a result of leaching.

