

## Common Mold and Fungi and How to Remove Them From Duradek

### DESCRIPTION:



Photo from Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Artillery Fungus** are dark raised spots about the size of a pencil tip that do not melt into a larger circles.

The description of Artillery Fungus by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences:

*"They are in the genus Sphaerobolus. These fungi colonize on dung or other organic matter such as wood mulch. The artillery fungi grow on organic matter and create dark brown spore packets, called peridioles, that sit on top of specialized cup-shaped cells. When the cells accumulate enough liquid, the cupped cells invert causing the cells to burst and propel the peridioles up to 6 meters high where they adhere to surfaces such as house siding, cars, plants, or other structures."*

For information on how to control established Artillery Fungus in ground cover go to Penn State University website: <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/ul201.pdf>



Photo from US Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

**Sooty Mold** is a dark fungi which leaves dark spots or darkish areas which look like, well, soot.

The following description is from Virginia Tech Dept. of Plant Pathology:

*"Although a few sooty mold fungi grow on plant substances exuded by the leaves, most grow on the excrement of certain sucking insects. The most common insects associated with sooty mold infestations are aphids, scales, mealybugs, and whiteflies. These insects feed on the sugar-rich contents of the phloem of plants and excrete a substance called "honeydew" that is very high in sugar. Sooty molds live entirely on the excretions of the insects and do not penetrate leaf or bark tissues."*

*Any plant infested with large numbers of sucking insects or growing beneath an insect-infested plant may be affected by sooty mold. Broadleaf trees, such as tulip poplar, magnolia, maple, beech, oak, elm, willow, walnut and basswood and conifers such as pines, spruces, and firs, frequently are infested with aphids and scales that can predispose them to sooty mold. Many types of shrubs and herbaceous plants are also commonly affected by this problem."*

For information on how to control Sooty Mold go to Virginia Tech website: <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/48803?show=full>



Photo from US Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

## HOW TO CLEAN ARTILLERY FUNGUS AND SOOTY MOLD OFF VINYL DECK MEMBRANES:

### General cleaning:

Your vinyl deck should be cleaned at least four times per year (more often if acid rain or airborne pollution is a problem in your area) using the Duradek vinyl cleaner available from your authorized contractor or Duradek. Follow the directions on the label. This cleaner is designed for vinyl and will NOT leave harmful chemical residue like many household cleaners may. Use warm water and a stiff broom, scrubbing in a circular motion to loosen the dirt. Spray with a garden hose (under pressure) to wash away the loose dirt. Flush thoroughly with clean water.

### Mold and Fungi Removal Recommendations:

Both Artillery Fungus and Sooty Mold have similar cleaning procedures. For plastic and painted surfaces that might have sooty mold, the USDA recommends:



*Photo from US Department of Agriculture Forest Service.*

- 1/3 cup powdered household detergent
- 1 quart household liquid bleach
- 2/3 of a cup of Trisodium phosphate
- 3 quarts of water

**Be sure to wear rubber gloves when cleaning with this solution.**

Clorox® recommends to use their “Outdoor Bleach” product diluted at a rate of 1 part Outdoor Bleach to 6 parts water, as per their recommendations for cleaning vinyl surfaces. Apply early or late in the day when the membrane surface is cool to the touch. Apply solution with a garden sprayer and allow to sit on the surface for a minimum of 10 minutes. Re-apply the solution to areas that begin to dry during this period.

Use a soft bristle brush on a pole to scrub the membrane surface. Small remaining spots can be cleaned using a firmer bristle brush. Then rinse the entire area thoroughly with a garden hose.

**Please note** Clorox® Outdoor Bleach is not available in Canada at time of printing. As with all cleaners make sure the manufacturer recommends their product is suitable for outdoor vinyl products and their written instructions are followed.



*Before - Photo from Duradek MidAtlantic.*



*After - Photo from Duradek MidAtlantic.*

**Download** [Case Study - Diagnosing and Removing Mold from Duradek](#)

*Provided by Duradek MidAtlantic.*