

Integrity Building Systems

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HOME & REAL ESTATE



Ask Gary *Gary Ranck*

Let Them Weep

Hi, Gary,

We're hoping you can answer a question for us. For low maintenance we had a composite deck with white vinyl rails and pickets installed almost two years ago. We've recently noticed that the pickets are lined with a green algae/slime-like substance where linked to the bottom rail. After looking a little more closely, we noticed that there are no holes in the bottom rail to let any water dissipate. Should we knock some holes in the bottom of the rail? If so, how? There isn't enough room between the bottom rail and the decking to maneuver a drill. Or should we just ignore the whole thing. By the way, how would you suggest we eliminate the green slimy stuff? Many thanks in advance! Great column!

Vinyl is Final!

Dear Vinyl,

In order to drill weep holes in the bottom of the railing, you would have to take the rail sections down from in between the newel posts. Then turn them over and drill some 1/4" holes in the bottom rail. This should allow the standing water collected there to escape.

As far as getting rid of the green slime (mold and mildew), you can purchase composite and vinyl deck cleaners from the lumberyard or hardware store. Or you could use a 50/50 solution of Clorox and water. Brush

on this solution and let set 20 minutes, then hose off thoroughly. You could also clean with a sponge and a low-abrasive chlorine bleach scrubbing product. Scrub until clean and rinse with clear water.

Thanks for the question.

Carpenter Gary Ranck is a sales representative for Brookside Homes. Contact him at or submit a question to askgary@mountainhomemag.com.





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