

What are the Circumstances That Will Cause An Aluminum Underdeck to Deteriorate?

Upon exposure to air, bare aluminum develops a thin layer of oxide that forms a patina that protects the metal from further corrosion.□ The patina provides good protection against atmospheric gasses and moisture.

The patina cannot protect aluminum from corrosion if it is exposed to acids, alkalis and salts. For the underdeck owner these chemicals are most commonly associated with decaying vegetable materials; leaves and twigs. Galvalume or galvanized steel products are not protected from this kind of corrosion, and the cut ends are subject to simple rust. Vinyl products will become brittle over time.

This is a big reason to consider ease of cleanout and other maintenance tasks when shopping for an underdeck. Whatever material is used, the prudent homeowner will take an occasional peek at the topside of the underdeck (every couple of years or so) to ensure there is no buildup of accumulated trash on the panels. Magnolia pioneered a system that allows a single panel to be removed for inspection.