



# Installation Guide & Best Practices

**INSTRUCTION & TIPS  
FOR RESIDENTIAL DECKS**

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[www.thedeckingsuperstore.com](http://www.thedeckingsuperstore.com)





 **THE DECKING  
SUPERSTORE**

— **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

You must contact your local building department before you begin designing your project. Your local building department will inform you of any zoning ordinances and buildings codes that specify where and how you can build. You are responsible for applying for and obtaining any and all required permits for your project.

The Decking Superstore provides this information as possible suggestions only and will not be held liable for your project's suitability or should you choose not to obtain the required permits, or if you fail to comply with all zoning ordinances and building codes.



01

## Prior to Installation

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Always check with local building codes and an architect prior to constructing.

Follow all building codes that apply in your area. Since there are many different variables one can encounter on an installation project, it is your responsibility to test the material for suitability for your project prior to constructing. Follow all manufacturers' installation instructions for the individual products used on the project.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.thedeckingsuperstore.com](http://www.thedeckingsuperstore.com)



If any building codes or manufacturers installation instructions contradict or differ from information provided by [thedeckingsuperstore.com](http://thedeckingsuperstore.com), contact us for written clarification prior to starting your project.



02

## Standard & Pre-grooved Decking

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Our standard and pre-grooved decking are both great choices for many outdoor deck and dock applications.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.thedeckingsuperstore.com](http://www.thedeckingsuperstore.com)

## 03

### Tongue & Groove Porch Decking

Tongue and groove porch decking is for use under covered porches and covered patios only.

Installing tongue and groove on a deck without a roof covering the deck surface will cause problems such as allowing excessive water to collect and cause the material to cup, swell, and buckle.

## 04

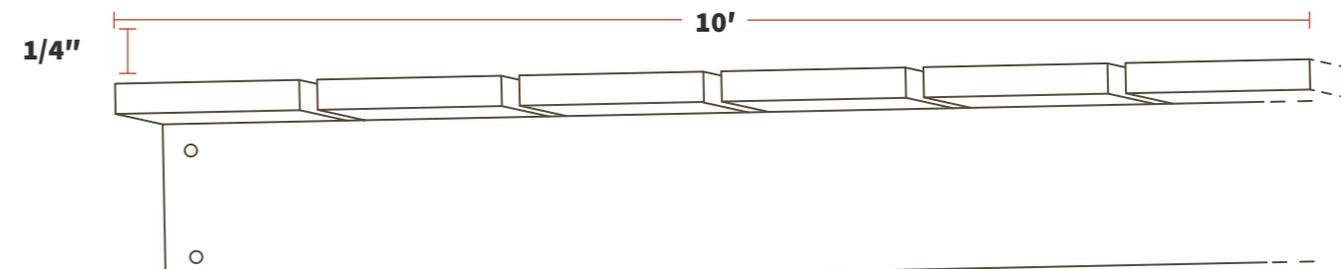
### Framing & Span Requirements

DECKING DIMENSION	MAXIMUM JOIST SPACING
1 x 4	16"
1 x 6	16"
5/4 x 6	24"
2 x 6	32"

## 05 Deck Pitch

Ensure the deck substructure is pitched away from the house to allow for adequate water runoff.

We recommend a minimum pitch of a 1/4" per 10 ft. for proper drainage on standard and pre-grooved decking. For tongue and groove decking, a more aggressive pitch is recommended. We highly recommend using a 1/4" per foot slope. Framing material should be installed with the crown up (humps up) to aid in water draining off the surface material. Framing lumber can crown 1/8" or more, and may lead to standing water. Any standing puddle of water can cause surface decking to cup.

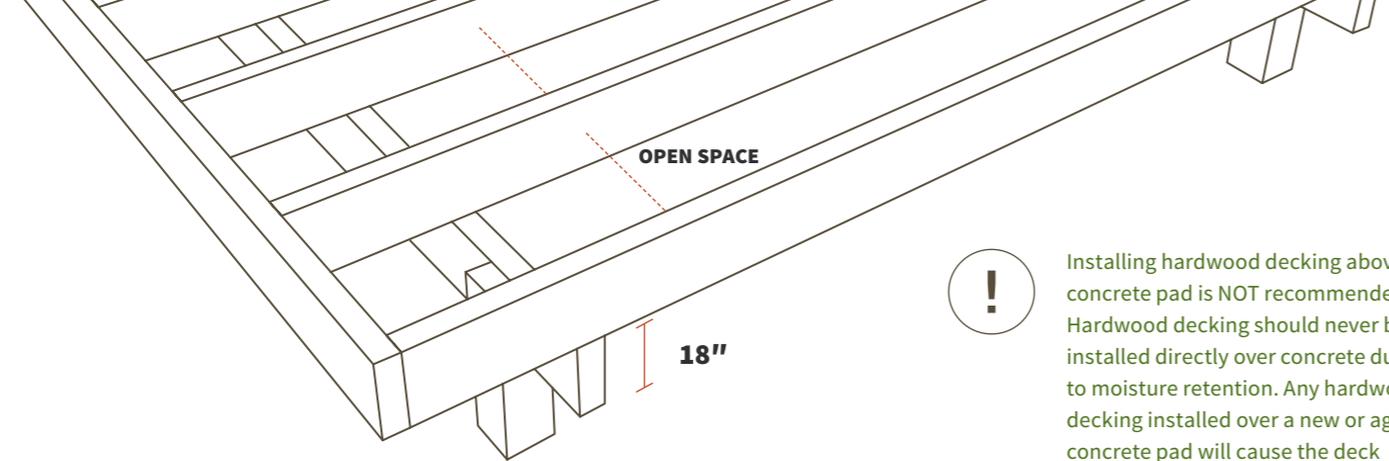


✗ Installing hardwood decking above a concrete pad is NOT recommended. Hardwood decking should never be installed directly over concrete due to moisture retention. Any hardwood decking installed over a new or aged concrete pad will cause the deck boards to cup and/or crown.

## 06 Ventilation

The deck design should allow for adequate cross ventilation underneath the deck to ensure stability, prevent cupping, prevent surface checking, and minimize the natural movement of the wood.

We recommend a minimum of 18" of open air under joists along with open sides for proper cross ventilation. If you install skirting around the perimeter of the deck it is imperative that the skirting does not prevent cross ventilation. Do not allow standing water to collect under the deck. Ensure that the ground is adequately sloped under the deck to eliminate standing water under the structure.



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## 07 Cutting & Drilling

Due to the nature of our hardwoods, premium carbide tipped saw blades are recommended for cutting. Brad point drill bits or fostner bits provide cleaner holes than standard HSS twist bits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

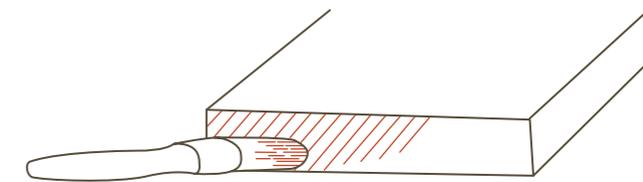
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## 08 End Sealing

Our hardwood decking is shipped with the end grain sealed with a clear wax to prevent any end checking.

Fresh cuts should be sealed within 24hrs with end grain sealant. We sell end grain sealant by the quart, which is typically enough for 500 sq.ft. of decking. The end grain sealant is simply applied with a paintbrush and dries clear.



**DO NOT** apply end seal to the surface of the decking. Any sealant that gets on the surface should be wiped off immediately.

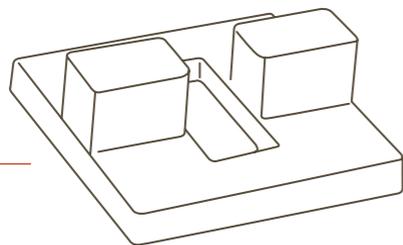
## 09 Fastening

Use only stainless steel fasteners to fasten hardwood decking or dimensional hardwood.

Use of fasteners or screws made of anything other than 305 or higher grade stainless steel will cause unsightly staining and discoloration to the wood around the fastener and the fastener could corrode and fail prematurely. When fastening deck boards pre-drilling is required.

The use of **Ipe Clip**® hidden deck fasteners to fasten the deck boards is highly recommended.

**IPE CLIP®  
DECK FASTENER**



Ipe Clip hidden deck fasteners keep the deck surface blemish free. This deck fastening system also allows the wood to expand and contract on its width without putting undue shear pressure on the screws when wood expands/contracts. Using Ipe Clip® hidden deck fasteners instead of face screwing can help keep water from penetrating the surface of the wood. Ipe Clip® deck fasteners also helps keep the deck surface splinter free. If you choose to install decking using Ipe Clip® hidden deck fasteners, please refer to and follow the installation included in the system's packaging.

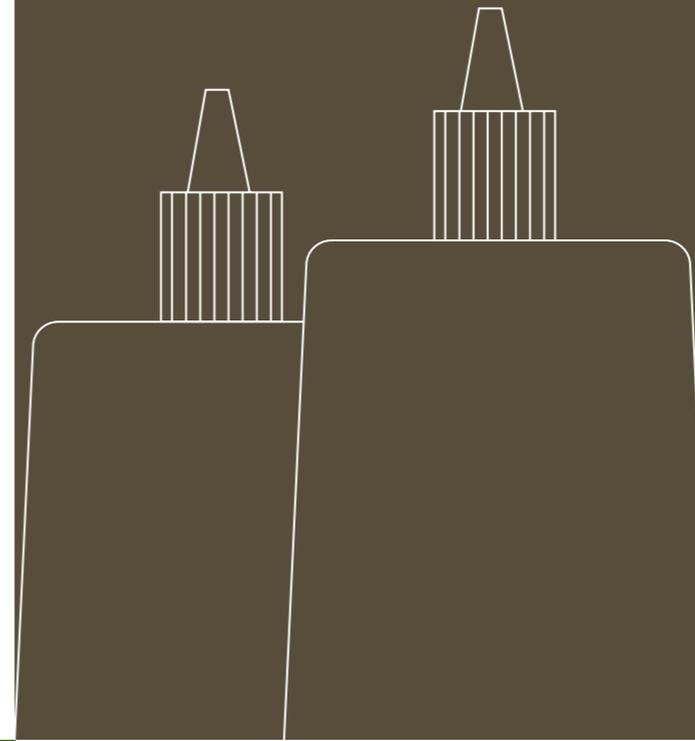


Pre-drill all your holes with the appropriate sized drill bit for your screw size. Failing to predrill can cause the wood to split which can cause irreversible damage to the deck boards and make the boards come loose over time.

## 10 Gluing

If the need arises to glue your hardwood decking, waterproof glues, such as Gorilla brand polyurethane can be used with satisfactory results for gluing plugs into deck boards.

Epoxy glues are also very suitable and can be dyed to black, brown or other colors to match your hardwood deck. Epoxy produces a very strong waterproof bond, particularly important for gluing posts.





The Place For Your Outdoor Projects

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