



# DECK

# Installation Guidelines

## ■ Preparation

- ▶ Make safety in the workplace the primary consideration. Always wear proper protective clothing, safety glasses and safety equipment, as well as adhere to all safety guidelines contained herein.
- ▶ Like wood, minor color variation of TUFboard DECK will occur. For optimal appearance, layout and view all deck boards before cutting or fastening. Place all tagged ends in the same direction.
- ▶ Make sure all joists are level, structurally sound, and no nails or screws are protruding if facilitated by using old joist structure.
- ▶ For appropriate joist spacing:
  - Do not exceed 16" center to center for applications with deck boards perpendicular to joists.
  - Do not exceed 12" center to center for commercial applications.
  - Do not exceed 12" center to center for diagonal or Herringbone pattern structure.
- ▶ Temperature build up will cause excessive expansion and contraction. There must be a minimum of 12" between the substructure and ground surface to allow proper air-flow and reduce temperature build up underneath the deck.
- ▶ Low E Glass Considerations:  
If Low E (Low Emissivity) glass windows or doors are used around the deck, its reflection of sunlight may create additional, excessive heat that could damage your TUFboard DECK. The damages may include but are not limited to melting, discoloration, excessive expansion and contraction or rapid weathering. A combination of contributing factors must be present before the effect occurs or causes damage to any nearby decking materials. This damaging effect can prevent in many cases by installing the window screens supplied by the window manufacturer.

## ■ Cutting

- ▶ Use standard wood working equipment for cutting.
- ▶ Carbide tipped blade is recommended.
- ▶ Avoid using fine tooth metal cutting blades.
- ▶ Rough and chipped edges from cutting may be caused by dull saw teeth, excessive friction, poor board support, or improper tooling.

## ■ Fastening

- ▶ Self-feeding screw guns can be used.
- ▶ Corded or cordless screw gun/driver may be used.
- ▶ Do not use glue or caulk to fasten TUFboard DECK or to seal the joint edge between two deck boards and any other surface. This will inhibit the natural expansion and contraction of the deck, and will impede the drainage of the deck.
- ▶ High quality fasteners that meet the following specifications are recommended for long-lasting TUFboard DECK products:
  - ▶ Color matched stainless steel deck screws or stainless steel screws.
  - ▶ Minimum screw size: #7.
  - ▶ Minimum screw length: 2 1/4"
- ▶ For the traditional fastening method, it is highly recommended to install all fasteners perpendicular to TUFboard DECK.
- ▶ **Hidden Fasteners**
  - TUFboard DECK can be installed by hidden fasteners. This choice provides a more attractive surface.
  - Visit our website for a list of commonly used hidden fasteners.
- ▶ Please contact the manufacturer of the fastener for proper use and compatibility.

## ■ Spacing

- ▶ Use spacers to create a gap of 1/8" to 1/4" between each deck board to allow for proper drainage. Spacers are available at most lumberyards.
  - ▶ Fasten and space deck boards until surface is covered.
  - ▶ Optional spacer: Edge of a carpenter's square.
- ## ■ Expansion & Contraction
- ▶ TUFboard DECK is engineered for minimal expansion and contraction with changes in temperature. Fasten TUFboard DECK according to the Installation Guidelines to minimize expansion and contraction.
  - ▶ Best practice is to fasten TUFboard DECK boards as soon as possible after being cut.
  - ▶ When surface temperature is above 32°F, fit deck boards tightly at the ends.
  - ▶ When surface temperature is 32°F or below, allow approximately an 1/16" to 1/8" end gap.
  - ▶ Deck boards fastened securely using 2 screws per joist member will minimize expansion and contraction.
  - ▶ Expansion & contraction are most significant when extreme temperature change exist. Some area building codes require double joisting when joining boards end-to-end. Always check with your local code authority for specific requirements before installation.
  - ▶ On end-to-end splices, be sure the screws are placed within 1/2" of spliced end, and no more than 1" from edge/side of the board. Additional screws on the end of boards are recommended to minimize its expansion and contraction.
  - ▶ No more than 1" overhang of the board from joist structure on the end and edge/side. Flushing with the joist structure is recommended to prevent deformation.
  - ▶ Fasten deck boards on top of the proper joist structure directly. Do not fasten the boards on top of the old deck boards.

## ■ Storage & Handling

- ▶ Always store the products on a flat and level surface, and in the shade.
- ▶ Do not store the product in any location where ambient temperature may exceed 120°F.
- ▶ Do not stack bundles in an unsecured height.
- ▶ Keep product free of dirt and debris at all times by leaving the applied factory wrap to protect the material. If product gets dirty, clean after installation.
- ▶ TUFboard DECK is more flexible than wood. Do not try to lift similar quantities of TUFboard DECK as you would with traditional lumber.
- ▶ Carry the Product with care to prevent excessive sagging and to minimize damage
- ▶ Handle with care when moving products with a forklift, as forks can easily damage the boards.
- ▶ If repacked with banding, use protective covers to prevent possible damage.

**NOTE: TUFboard® DECK claims no liability or responsibility for the improper installation of our deck product. The purchaser is solely responsible for compliance with applicable local codes as to the deck's intended use. TUFboard® DECK recommends that all designs be reviewed by a licensed architect, engineer or local building official before installation. Failure to comply with TUFboard® DECK Installation Guideline will result in voiding the warranty.**



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