



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Tiger Deck is a natural product and though our graders and quality control people attempt to ship a 100% usable product, you may see a few pieces on each job which will need to be trimmed. We recommend carefully inspecting pieces prior to installation for any minor defect trimming that may be required.

Acclimatize your deck boards prior to installation. Like an interior floor, your deck boards have been kiln dried to very low moisture content and it is designed to fit average climate conditions. The drier the climate, the more helpful it is to lay out your deck boards upside down (If your joists are chemically treated lumber do NOT acclimatize upside down as chemical will stain the face) to allow adjustment to your climate prior to installation. If you can leave them for a week or more this will allow them to equalize to your local climate. Just prior to flipping them over for installation it is HIGHLY recommended that you apply the same UV protector on the back of the boards that you will use on the face (this is not necessary on bamboo as it is already done). You can slop it on, and it is better if you do NOT wipe off excess as you will on the face. As you install the deck, leave the boards you are not working on upside down, this will give you a surface to very carefully walk on.

- 1 The first row of deck boards should be squared accurately to the substructure, pre-drilled and screwed through the face with 1-2 stainless steel or ceramic deck screws per joist.
- 2 Two to five rows of deck boards (or the entire deck) can then be laid out on the joists with one clip on each joist. Do NOT screw the clips down as you go. Push everything in place with hand pressure and set up Bow Wrench(s)<sup>®</sup> in preparation for squeezing a 2-5 row section tight. Natural bow should be placed with the belly out.
- 3 Using the Bow Wrench<sup>®</sup> (contact info on website) installation tool (or equal) pressure can be applied to slowly press the section together (be sure clips are in the grooves, a 16 penny nail inserted into clip screw hole helps clip adjustment). Before the section is squeezed tight be sure to tap the ends of the boards with a hammer to snug the ends up tight. Look the section over one more time for defects (which may need to be trimmed out), tight butt joints, boards tight to the clip legs to insure proper spacing, straight lines and color/aesthetics.
- 4 Squeeze section TIGHT, clips can then be secured to the joists with the stainless steel screws provided. The last row of clips which are closest to the Bow Wrench should not be tighten completely, only enough to hold the



Illustration 1

last board in place while laying out the next 2 to 5 rows. (Illustration 1)

- 5 Tiger Deck comes to you 'baby butt' smooth and clean. However, after installation you may want to rent a commercial floor sander to clean the dirt, water stain et.al. Using the finest grit sanding screen/sandpaper available for the sander (120 grit or finer), LIGHTLY sand the surface of your deck (not for bamboo). This will clean all the dirt, water stains and etc off the deck and help open the cells to receive your UV protector. If you just want to remove dirt, a wash with TSP, Oxyclean or even a power wash all work ok.

### **BUTT JOINTS (TIGERWOOD)**

Butt joints should have 1 screw pre-drilled and centered as far from the end of the board as possible but still allow penetration into the joist. We recommend that you do this as you go but also can be done after the deck has been installed using the clip system. This keeps butt joints square and remember that only half of the clip is holding each board at butt joints. Countersink and plugging screw holes adds a beautiful furniture type finished look for a small amount of additional work.

### **FASCIA**

Fascia boards (or ANY other continuous face to face application) should be pre-drilled and face screwed 1" from board edge and through 1/8" or thicker lathe backing every 16" when installed against any flat surface to provide air space/moisture drain to back of board.

NEVER install any Tiger Deck product flat against green treated wood, roofs, concrete or in any application which traps moisture behind the piece (the obvious exception is deck board back against any joist edge, green treat or otherwise). Flat face to flat face creates a moisture gradient and almost always creates a heat gradient as well. This condition creates stresses which WILL cause 'cupping', 'splits', 'warp' and other types of damage.

ALWAYS use Tiger Deck products as a system and as per our design intent. MINIMUM SPACE between product and ground or concrete is 16", installed on wooden joist material with ADEQUATE ventilation and drainage under the deck.

### **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

While we have not heard of any allergic reactions to Tiger Deck materials, it is always recommended when working with hardwood lumber to wear safety glasses and a dust mask. Wood splinters should be removed immediately to prevent infection. All standard safety precautions should be used when cutting, shaping or drilling the product.

### **CLIPS**

Standard clips shown are for perpendicular joist installation. For 4" joist or angled applications request our "angled clips"

### **MAINTENANCE AND FINISH**

(please see [www.tigerdeck.com](http://www.tigerdeck.com))



THIS INSTRUCTION PAMPHLET IS JUST THE BASICS FOR IN DEPTH DETAILS  
AND TIPS SEE INSTALLATION DETAILS ON [www.tigerdeck.com](http://www.tigerdeck.com)