

Strand Poplar Decking

Before installation

- Local building codes must always be consulted when building an exterior deck. Most Municipalities require building permits.
- Install the decking boards with a slope of 1-2% to allow water to run off the surface. Flat decking may allow water to stay on the surface longer, so it is possible water staining and more superficial cracks will develop. If the installation is done without slope, more frequent cleaning will be required. This can be achieved by sand layers and gravel dispersion above.
- The decking can be installed very close to the ground, as little as 4" above permeable surfaces. It is highly important that adequate airflow and drainage is planned for and achieved. Pooling water or stagnant airspace will result in moisture issues that may cause failure. This can be achieved by sand layers and gravel below the decking.
- In applications where the deck is being built closer to wet ground, a vapor barrier is recommended to prevent water from absorbing into the underside of the material. However, the area must be sloped to allow water to drain away.
- Be sure to order finished edge boards (1-groove) for deck edge, stair treads etc.

Required tools

- Drill
- Drill bits
- Safety glasses
- Power screw gun with ratcheting torque setting. Avoid impact drivers, which will snap screws.
- Chop saw
- The decking can be crosscut with a quality chop saw, using a carbide-tipped fine finish blade. Ripping can be done on a standard table saw, using a properly aligned quality fence with a carbide-tipped blade.
- The decking can be routed or planed with high-speed steel or carbide cutters. When required, only sand in the direction of the grain - i.e. belt sander. Never use an orbital sander.
- Starborn Pro-plug screws and plugs and bits to match.

Spacing

- Keep at least 3/16" expansion gap between the boards (in width direction). With the decking Fasteners installation this is automatically the case.
- Because of the stability of the boards and the shape of the end-match system no expansion gap is needed on the ends of the boards.

Joist span

- The recommended joist span is 18" or 24" on center.
- Because the decking is endmatched there is no need to have all joints join atop joists. End joints can meet or "fall between" the joists with 8" - 8" distance. If you wish a random pattern, the span should be reduced to 12".
- You should stagger your end joints so they do not line up from one row to the next.
- When decking installation is on an angle, or a random pattern is desired, the joist spacing should be 12" centers. Determine the final joist spacing only after talking with local building code officials.

Installation with fasteners

- Use the Metal Fasteners in the following sequence:
- Press fastener with hooked side in the groove of one board.
- Pre-drill the joist screw holes 30 mm deep.
- Fully tighten the screw. Always screw vertically to the joist. Apply low torque with slow screwing speed on the screwing machine. Perform some tests for correct torque and speed adjustment before full installation.
- Install every following board by sliding it under the waved side of the fasteners.
- When floating the joint between the joists, putting a loose fastener on both sides of joint can help provide increased stability in the event that the joist move.
- Only use the included stainless steel decking screws.
- Don't forget to make sure you float a fastener at the end-match when floating the joint. The fastener will provide added support and maintain proper spacing between the boards.

Screw down installation

- Determine the surface side of the boards (grooved or smooth surface).
- Pre-drill the screw holes 3/4" from the side of the board. Be sure to predrill with a large enough drill (80% of screw diameter) to avoid cracking of the decking.

- We recommend using a countersink bit with a positive stop.
- Screws should be 305 grade stainless steel. Salt water contact may require 316 grade stainless steel, please consult local building codes.
- Always screw both sides (left and right in the width direction) of the board.
- Use at least a stainless steel quality decking screw with a minimum length of 1 5/8" for 1x6 decking.

