

## Decking Installation Instructions

PLAN THE DESIGN OF THE DECK... IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT.

1. Completely read the application instructions... before starting the installation of the deck.
2. Properly unload and store DuraLife™ decking...
  - Do not dump or drop decking from the back of a truck or trailer. Decking should be off-loaded by forklift or by hand. Store decking on a level area on wood supports placed every 3 ft. (914 mm).
  - Protect DuraLife™ decking from the elements during storage with a lumber cover or tarp.
  - Remove factory applied protective film on deck boards within 30 days after installation.
3. Use proper lifting techniques... when lifting DuraLife™ decking; it is heavier than standard wood materials.
4. Use proper joist placement... to realize savings in both time of installation and from cost of materials. Make sure the joist direction maximizes the desired lay-out of the deck.
5. If a railing is to be installed... consult the railing manufacturer for the required spacing between the railing posts.
6. Follow all local and state building codes... when planning and installing your deck.
7. Use normal wood working tools... to cut, route, or fasten DuraLife™ decking. For cutting, use carbide-tip saw blades with approximately 2 teeth per inch.
8. Tools needed...
  - Circular saw (24 tooth carbide blades).
  - Cordless drill with a quick drive bit for pre-drilling holes and screw fastening.
  - Non-marring dead blow hammer or mallet for tapping boards into place.
  - A BoWrench® tool or pry bar for setting boards in tight places.
9. Always use personal safety equipment... when using tools.

### GETTING STARTED...



### VENTILATION AND DRAINAGE...

1. To perform properly... DuraLife™ decking must be installed with proper drainage and ventilation.
2. Ensure that:
  - a. The joists are level across each span... and that there is a slight slant of the deck [1/8 inch (3 mm) for every 8 feet (2.4 m)] away from your home for drainage.
  - b. The substructure has at least 2" (51 mm) clearance from grade.
  - c. Skirting does not impede airflow under the deck.
3. Where ventilation is minimal or obstructed... flow through or soffit venting must be added around the perimeter of the deck to create cross ventilation under the entire substructure to avoid accumulation of moisture and humidity.
4. Never attach DuraLife™ decking to... any solid surface, watertight membrane, concrete, or existing decking.

### FRAMING YOUR DECK...

1. Use minimum nominal 2"x 8" (51 mm x 203 mm)... sized joist for deck frame constructions. KDAT (kiln dried after treatment) stamped framing lumber is recommended as it is typically straighter, lighter, easier to handle, and will not shrink and expand as much after installation as non-KDAT lumber.
2. Never use DuraLife™ decking as structural members... when constructing your deck.
3. Use 16" (406 mm) on center joist spacing... if the decking is to be installed perpendicular to the joist.
4. Use 12" (305 mm) on center joist spacing... if the decking is to be installed at an angle to the joist (maximum 45° angle).
5. Confirm required joist spacing... with local and state building code agencies.
6. If heavy equipment is going to be installed on the deck... such as a hot tub, consult the equipment manufacturer for specific requirements for framing and support.

7. Install the framing joist vertically... with the 2" (51 mm) side in contact with the decking. Do not install decking on framing that has been installed flat with the 8" (203 mm) side in contact with the decking as this may cause debris and moisture to be trapped between the framing and decking.

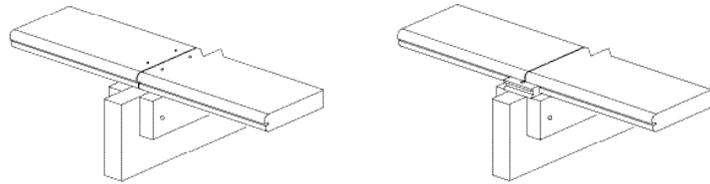
## USING DURALIFE™ DECKING AS STAIR TREADS...

1. Do not space stringers wider than 12" (305 mm) on center... when using DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection decking for stair treads. For DuraLife™ MVP decking, do not space stringers wider than 8" (203 mm)
2. Overhang... for stair treads must not exceed 2" (51 mm).

## BLOCKING IS REQUIRED WHERE THE END OF TWO DECK BOARDS MEET...

When the design of the deck is longer than 20' (6.1 m) or it is a unique design, blocking ("sistering") or additional framing is required.

1. Sharing Fastenator® Clips... between two boards at butt joints is allowed, but the ends of each deck board must be individually supported.
2. Transition/divider boards or other intricate designs... require additional blocking or framing.



## BOARD SPACING OR GAPPING...

All decking expands and contracts slightly as a result of temperature change.

When installing DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection Classic profile or MVP™ deck boards...

During installation, always space boards to provide the following minimum gaps to allow for these changes:

- Side to Side... 3/16" (4.8 mm).
- End to End... typically 3/16" (4.8 mm) depending on board length and temperature (see Chart 2 - "Deck Spacing Calculator").
- Structure... typically 3/16" (4.8 mm) between all decking and any structure or post (see Chart 2 - "Deck Spacing Calculator").

When using DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection Channeled profile boards with the Fastenator® hidden fastening system...

During installation, ALWAYS space boards to provide the following minimum gaps to allow for these changes:

- Side to Side... fasteners automatically gap boards 3/16" (4.8 mm).
- End to End... typically 3/16" (4.8 mm) depending on board length and temperature (see Chart 2 - "Deck Spacing Calculator").
- Structure... typically 3/16" (4.8 mm) between all decking and any structure or post (see Chart 2 - "Deck Spacing Calculator").

**NOTE:**

Note: If the deck is located near or around a tree, be sure to allow for future growth of the tree.

## COLOR AND ORIENTATION OF THE DECKING BOARDS...

**NOTE:**

1. DuraLife™ decking has a directional grain... as a result, light will reflect off the surface of the board differently depending on the orientation of the grain.
2. To ensure a consistent color across the deck... it is vital to maintain the same orientation of the deck boards during installation.
3. Always lay out the deck boards... before final installation to ensure an acceptable color mix. DuraLife™ Siesta Hardwoods feature a variegated appearance with contrasting light and dark shades of color. Laying out a preferred pattern of deck boards before installation will help to achieve a desired appearance.

Note: The semi-gloss surface of DuraLife™ decking will weather to a natural matte finish over time.

## FASTENING...

There are two methods... that can be used to fasten DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection decking.

- The Fastenator® hidden fastening system... can be used with DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection Channeled Profile decking. Install Fastenator® Clips with a #7 x 2 1/4" trim head screws. (Fastenator® Clips with pre-installed #7 x 2 1/4" trim head screws are available at your local DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection dealer.)

**NOTE:**HIDDEN FASTENER  
INSTALLATION . . .

Note: Store Fastenator® Clips indoors before use. Fastenator Clips install best between 40°F and 80°F (4°C and 27°C).

- Color matched capped composite deck screws or stainless trim head deck screws . . . are recommended for face-fastening DuraLife™ decking, and for the outer board edge of the Siesta starter profile boards in a channeled profile decking installation.
1. Installing DuraLife™ Channeled profile decking using the Fastenator® hidden fastener system:
    - a. Install a DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection starter profile board . . . by pre-drilling and countersinking a screw hole 5/8" (16 mm) from the outer board edge. Screw down the outer edge of the DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection starter profile board at every joist location using one #8 x 2 1/2" stainless steel, trim head deck screw or use a #10 x 2-3/4" capped composite deck screw (no pre-drilling required) .
    - b. Do not overhang . . . DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection starter profile board over joists by more than 1" (25 mm) widthwise and 2" (51 mm) lengthwise.
    - c. Always place one Fastenator® hidden fastener . . . in the slot in the board edge at every joist, between deck boards, regardless of the joist spacing. (Side to side spacing is maintained . . . by the Fastenator® hidden fasteners.)
    - d. Use a #7 x 2 1/4" stainless steel screw . . . through the line in the center of the Fastenator® Clip at a 90° angle (or use a Fastenator® Clip with a pre-installed #7 x 2 1/4" square drive trim head screw).
    - e. Starting at one end . . . slide the next DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection Channeled board onto the exposed Fastenator® Clips of the first board and install a single Fastenator® Clip at one end of the out-board edge to hold the board in place.
    - f. While standing on the new board . . . pound it tight with a non-marring dead blow hammer. Repeat steps "c" through "f" for the remaining boards, installing Fastenator® Clips at each joist.
    - g. Always face fasten the outer most edge of the first and last board . . . when using Fastenator® hidden fasteners.

## Helpful Hints:

- Use a non-marring dead blow hammer as necessary to tap the Fastenator® Clip into the slot.
- A non-marring dead blow hammer or BoWrench® tool can also be used to help secure the next DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection Channeled board into place.
- If the joists are uneven, apply pressure to the deck board where it does not touch the joist. As pressure is being applied, tap the board into the Fastenator® Clip using the non-marring dead blow hammer.
- Use of a chisel or screwdriver will help hold the Fastenator® Clip in place when stapling it to the joist.
- In the case of a low joist, shim the Fastenator® Clip as necessary to seat in the slot in the edge of the deck board.
- Take a measurement of the total width of the installed boards to make sure they are parallel every 3-4 courses.

2. Installing DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection & MVP decking with capped composite decking screw fasteners:
  - a. Use #10 x 2-3/4" capped composite deck screws . . . when installing DuraLife™ Siesta™ Collection & MVP™ decking. (similar to Starborn® Deckfast Cap-Tor xd color matched capped composite deck screws or the Camo™ Hidden Deck Fastening System (for MVP decking only). Both are available at local retailers. No pre-drilling required.
  - b. When using non-capped composite decking fasteners (as outlined above) , pre-drill and countersink . . . for the screw size (#8 x 2-1/2" typical.)
  - c. Two fasteners . . . are required at each joist, one on each side of the board, regardless of the joist spacing.
  - d. Drive fasteners straight . . . directly through the deck boards at a 90° angle to the decking surface. Do not toe nail or drill at an angle.
  - e. Never place fasteners . . . closer than 5/8" (16 mm) from the edge or ends of the board.
  - f. For the best appearance, use a white chalk line . . . to ensure straight fastener lines.\*

Trimming may be needed . . . after all decking has been installed:

1. DuraLife™ decking should NOT extend more than 2" (51 mm) . . . beyond the framing in any direction.
2. Use a white chalk line . . . to provide a cut line for squaring off the decking.\*
3. Use a circular saw . . . to trim the ends of the DuraLife™ decking along the chalk line.

\*Caution: Colored chalk can stain the decking and can be very difficult to remove.

STANDARD FASTENER  
INSTALLATION . . .FINISHING THE  
DECK BOARD  
INSTALLATION . . .

## INSTALLING FASCIA (OPTIONAL)... SEE FIG. 2

**NOTE:**

- Fasten fascia boards... using minimum #8 x 2" stainless steel deck screws.
  - Use three fasteners... one in the middle and one on each side of the fascia board. Place fasteners a minimum of 1" (25 mm) from side spaced approximately 12" (305 mm) on center. Locate end fasteners 1 1/2" (38 mm) from the ends of the fascia boards. Alternately, a #7 x 1-5/8" screw may be used if four fasteners are equally spaced across the board at the same locations identified above.
- When decking boards are installed picture framing the deck... fasten the fascia board to the rim joist, leaving a 1/8" (3.2 mm) gap between the top of the fascia and the bottom of the deck boards. Decking boards should not overhang the outer rim joists by more than 2" (51 mm).
- When decking boards are installed without picture framing the deck... trim the deck boards so they run past the outer rim joists by less than 2" (51 mm). Fasten the fascia board to the rim joist, leaving a 1/8" (3.2 mm) gap between the top of the fascia and the bottom of the deck boards.

Note: When using fascia to cover joists wider than 11 1/2" (292 mm), either stack multiple layers of fascia or use a combination of fascia boards, deck boards and 2x4s as accents to create a unique look. (fig. 2)

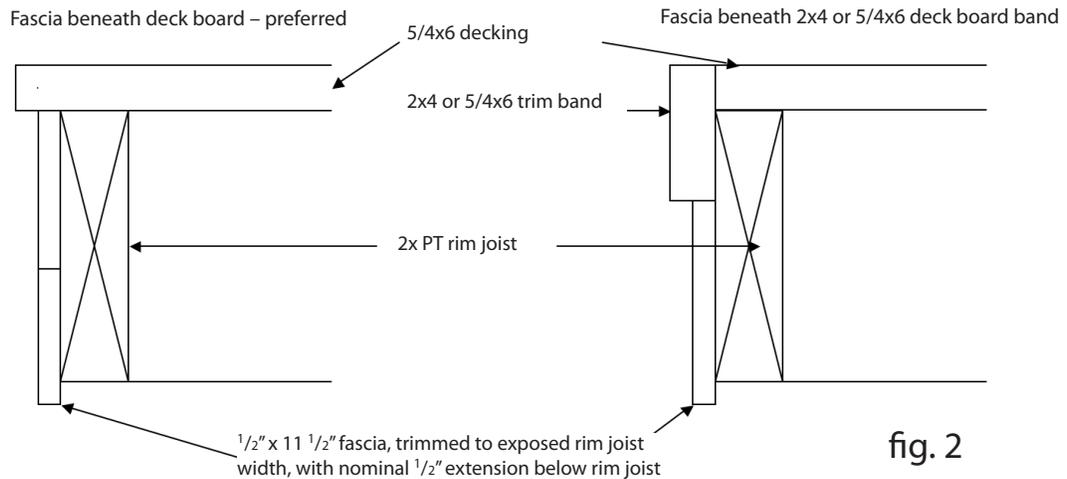


fig. 2

## CARE AND CLEANING...



- To maintain the appearance of your DuraLife™ decking... sweep periodically and clean spills with soap and water.
- If grime, ground-in dirt, mold or mildew become a concern... consult the DuraLife™ decking cleaning instructions online at [www.duralifedecking.com](http://www.duralifedecking.com) or call 1-800-866-8101.

Caution: Only use pressure washers for low pressure wetting and rinsing. High pressure washing can damage the surface of the decking. Always test all cleaning products on an inconspicuous area before using on the entire deck.

## LUMBER SIZES AND DIMENSIONS

### CHART 1...

Product	Nominal Size	Length	Actual Size
Decking	5/4" x 6"	12', 16', 20'*	0.9" x 5.4"
Fascia	1/2" x 11 1/2"	12'	0.5" x 11.5"

## CHART 2... DECK SPACING CALCULATOR

Note: Always allow the greater of a 1/4" gap or the value from chart around column or other fixed elements. For values greater than those shown in the chart please contact Integrity Composites at 1-800-866-8101 or online at [www.duralifedecking.com](http://www.duralifedecking.com).

Board Length	Deck Spacing Calculator																				
	Maximum Anticipated Temperature Increase from Time of Installation																				
	10(°F)	12(°F)	14(°F)	16(°F)	18(°F)	20(°F)	22(°F)	24(°F)	26(°F)	28(°F)	30(°F)	32(°F)	34(°F)	36(°F)	38(°F)	40(°F)	42(°F)	44(°F)	46(°F)	48(°F)	50(°F)
	Required Gap (Inches) at Butt Joints or Other Immoveable Objects																				
6	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8
7	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8
8	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8
9	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16
10	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16
11	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16
12	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	1/4
13	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	1/4	1/4	1/4
14	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
15	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	5/16
16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	5/16	5/16