

Ipe Decking Installation Guidelines

Storage and Handling

For best results, ipe decking products should be kept out of direct sunlight and not exposed to weather prior to installation.

Your ipe decking should be allowed to acclimate to your outdoor environment one to two weeks prior to installation.

Decking Installation

Spacing: Spacing between planks should be determined by the climate conditions in the various regions throughout North America. Spacing should be determined by the moisture content of the wood at time of installation. Typical installation is 1/16" - 3/16" spacing on 1x6 and 5/4x6 decking to allow for air circulation, and proper spacing as boards become fully seasoned. Ipe decking products are subject to shrinking and/or swelling up due to varying moisture content in the wood.

Span: Consult local building codes to meet compliance with regulations.

Technical Data-

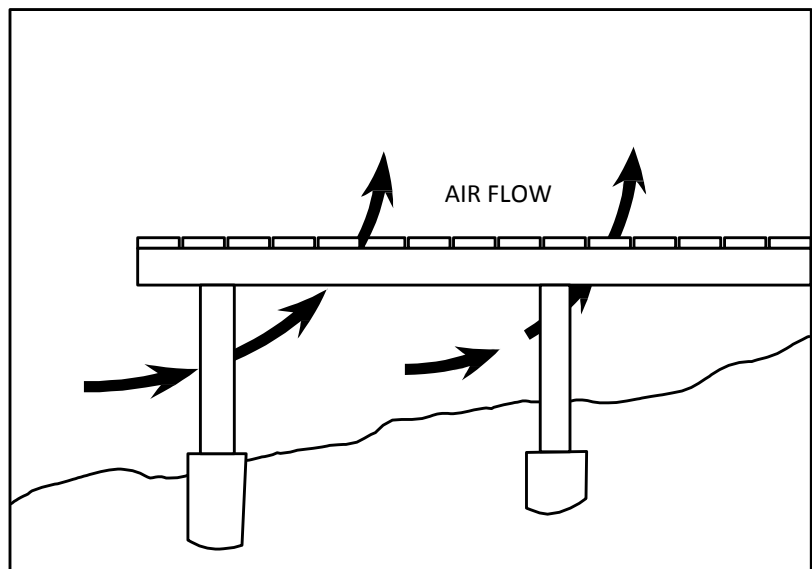
1" material (3/4" net) can span 24" on center at 100psf

5/4" material (1" net) can span 32" on center at 100psf

We recommend 1x4 and 1x6 decking is installed with joists on 16" centers and 5/4 decking is installed with joists on 24" centers. This tightened span allows for less deflection on the walking surface. Angular installation may be achieved at tighter joist on center spacing. Final joist spacing should only be determined after consulting local building codes.

Ventilation: Allow for 18" clearance between underside of decking and ground. Adequate air circulation beneath the deck will help prevent cupping and warping of deck boards. Additional clearance is recommended in wet areas or over water. Applications close to the ground may require a vapor barrier to prevent moisture from absorbing into the underside of the deck boards. In some situations it may be necessary to leave multiple sides open for adequate air circulation.

Figure 1. Proper ventilation





Fasteners: To prevent discoloration near the fasteners, stainless steel screws are recommended, applied at a rate of 2 screws per joist. Pre-drilling may be required when screwing through the face of the board, and always pre-drill screws near the end of the boards. There are also several different hidden fastening systems available. If a hidden fastening system is desired we recommend a pre grooved kiln dried 5/4 stock (Pau Lope) in conjunction with Extreme Ipe clips. 1x (3/4") stock is NOT recommended under any circumstances when coupled with hidden clips. The strongest fastening system is to use two screws through the face of the board into each joist.

End Sealer: Ipe decking is normally end sealed during manufacturing to help prevent end splits and checking. All boards must be end-sealed immediately after cutting during installation. A clear, water resistant wax should be used. Ask your supplier for more information on end sealers.

Finishing Options

In order to minimize surface checking, cupping, and discoloration, we recommend that all ipe decking materials be finished prior to or immediately after installation.

There are several different products especially formulated for tropical hardwood decking. Check with your supplier for more information on oil finishes. Follow the manufacturer's directions to achieve the best results. In most cases a finish is required every 6 months in order to maintain its integrity.

Tropical hardwood decking products can be pressure washed; however, care must be taken to prevent damage to the surface fibers by setting the pressure too high. Pressure washing may be necessary between oil treatments to remove surface discoloration.

Required Equipment

Hardwood decking can be easily crosscut with a good quality chop saw using a carbide-tipped blade. Ripping can be done on a standard table saw, using a well-aligned high quality fence and a carbide-tipped blade.

When drilling, always use the highest quality drill bits available. If screwing through the face, a countersink bit with a positive stop should be used so all screw heads end up at a consistent depth.

Safety Concerns

Safety glasses and a dust mask should always be worn when working with hardwood lumber. We recommend an active carbon filter dust mask. Some people may have an allergic reaction to hardwood dust. Remove wood splinters immediately to prevent infection.

CAPITAL

WARNING

Drilling, Sawing, sanding or machining wood products generates wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer.

Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection.

MSDS sheets are available on request.

Checklist

- Material stored in clean, dry environment out of direct sunlight and weather.
- Material allowed to equalize at job site.
- Spacing at 1/16” to 3/16” for 6” decking.
- Adequate ventilation under deck.
- Proper On Center Spans adhered to.
- Stainless Steel fasteners.
- Pre-drilling required on ends of boards.
- End cuts are sealed with wax.
- Appropriate oil based finish

Disclaimer

Tropical hardwood decking products are manufactured and inspected to ensure quality. However, they are natural wood products and are subject to variations in weight, density, color, grain, and performance.

Wood decking is subject to dimensional changes as the moisture content in the wood changes with ambient humidity and exposure to direct sunlight. Swelling, shrinking, checking, and other movement of individual pieces are normal occurrences in all wood decking products.

Color variation from board to board is a natural occurrence and is part of the allure of ipe. ipe decking products can vary from gold/blonde, red/amber, dark brown/black.

Randomly distributing these different color boards around the deck will add to the natural beauty of your ipe tropical hard wood deck.

Some water stains and some sticker stains can occur due to the length of sea and road travel that these species endure. Also, some portion of the material will be Quarter Saw/Raised Grain. This is a natural part of the material and logistics process and cannot be avoided. The solution to mitigate these issues is to sand the material prior to installation. Kiln Dried ipe helps minimize sticker stain, versus Air Dried ipe.

Due to natural characteristics of wood decking, many oil and water based coatings and finishes may have a reaction with the wood, including, but not limited to, drying, adhesion and color change. We recommend testing any finishing product over several samples of the wood to determine compatibility.

Local building codes must be consulted when building an exterior deck.
Most counties require building permits.