

Decking Installation Instructions

GETTING STARTED...



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.

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 the support structure of your deck.
3. Use 16" (406 mm) on center joist spacing... if the decking is to be installed perpendicular to the joist.
4. Use 16" (406 mm) on center joist spacing... for DuraLife Siesta boards if the decking is to be installed at an angle (maximum 45° angle). For DuraLife MVP decking, use 12" (305 mm) on center spacing for angled decking.
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. If a "breaker board" or "picture frame" deck installation technique is utilized, the board(s) that will be installed parallel to the deck joists will require additional framing and should also be shimmed slightly to match the crown height of the adjacent decking running perpendicular to these board(s).

