



Lakeside  
Lumber

*Siding & Decking Specialists*

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## IPE Decking Installation/Maintenance Tips

### Spacing

Air dried products should generally be installed with 1/8" spaces between boards, regardless of width. This space will allow for air circulation, allow room for expansion and provide for the proper spacing as board become fully seasoned. Approximate shrinkage and or swelling is 1/8" on 4" decking and 3/16" on 6" decking.

### Span

You must consult local building codes to be sure you are following local regulations. Generally, 1 x 4 and 1 x 6 decking can be installed with joists 16" on centers. 5/4 x 4 and 5/4 x 6 decking can be installed with joists on 24" centers. When installing on an angle, joist spacing should be on 12" centers. Final joist spacing should only be determined after consulting local building codes.

### Ground-side Ventilation

Build your deck so that the surface is at least 16" above the ground. **There must be adequate air circulation underneath the deck in order to prevent cupping and warping of boards. In wet areas or over water, additional clearance is recommended. In close to ground applications, a vapor barrier may be necessary to prevent moisture from absorbing into the underside of the deck boards.**

### Fasteners

Several different options are available for fasteners and for fastening technique. Stainless steel screws into the face of every board, two screws per joist are recommended. There are several types of stainless steel screws available. Self-tapping screws are available, but will require pre-drilling. **The use of non-stainless fasteners is not recommended since they will cause discoloration near the fastener.**

**Use an appropriate water-proof construction adhesive between the deck boards and joists.**

### End Sealer

Ipe decking is always end sealed during manufacturing to help prevent splitting and checking on the ends of boards. **We recommend that boards are end-sealed as soon as reasonably possible after cutting during installation.** A clear, water resistant wax should be used. One such product is Anchorseal from UC Coatings, although several other products are available.

### Finishing Options

In order to help prevent surface checking and discoloration, Ipe decking should be finished immediately after installation. Especially in dry, sunny conditions, finishing should be done as soon as possible. Treat deck materials with a penetrating sealer on **all 6 sides** prior to installation. It is important to understand that treating only one side of the decking material creates an unequal moisture transfer and will actually increase the likelihood of cupping.

Lakeside Lumber can pre-stain your Ipe decking package prior to delivery to your job site. For more information concerning this process please refer to the Services section on Lakeside Lumber's website: [www.lakesidelumber.com/services](http://www.lakesidelumber.com/services). For optimal results, a second coat of high quality stain should be applied three to four months after installation.



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## IPE Decking Installation/Maintenance Tips

### Finishing Options, continued

Left untreated, Ipe will weather to a natural silver gray color. If that is the desired result, a **high quality** water seal product should be applied to prevent checking. To maintain the brown natural color, a **high quality penetrating oil finish with UV inhibitors should be used.**

Keep your deck free of leaf, pine needle and other debris buildup. These can retain water and clog drainage channels resulting in a deck that cannot drain and dry properly after wetting.

Periodically move planters, benches and other deck accessories to allow the deck under them to dry thoroughly.

### Disclaimer

Ipe decking is carefully manufactured and inspected to insure quality. However, any natural decking product is 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 humidity in the air. Swelling, shrinkage, checking and other movement of individual pieces are normal occurrences in wood decking.

Due to the natural characteristics of wood decking, many oil and water based coatings and finishes may have a reaction with the wood. These reactions may include and are limited to, drying, adhesion, and color change. It is recommended that installers test any finishing product over several samples of the wood decking to determine compatibility.