



L a k e s i d e  
L u m b e r

*Siding & Decking Specialists*

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## Hardwood Decking Installation/Maintenance Tips

### Installation

**You must consult local building codes to be sure you are following local regulations.** For best installation results, drill pilot holes 3/4" from the end of the boards and at least 3/4" from the sides of boards to minimize splitting.

**Boards need to be glued to joists with high quality exterior grade polyurethane glue** and fastened with stainless steel screws, which should penetrate 1 1/2" or more into the deck joists.

### Spacing

Hardwood decking should be installed with 1/4" spaces between the boards regardless of the board's width. This space will allow for air circulation, allow room for expansion and provide for proper spacing as the boards become fully seasoned. Shrinkage/expansion lengthwise is minimal, so the ends should be trimmed neatly and butted together tightly. Please refer to the "End Sealer" paragraph below to prevent splitting or checking of ends.

### Span

Hardwood decking should be installed with joists 16" on centers. When installing on an angle, joist spacing should be 12" on centers. **Final joist spacing should only be determined after consulting with local building codes.**

### Ground-side Ventilation

Build your deck so that the surface is at least 18" above the ground to provide adequate circulation underneath the deck in order to prevent cupping and warping of boards. **Additional clearance is recommended over open or standing water, as well as wet or saturated areas.** In close to ground applications, a vapor barrier may be necessary to prevent moisture from absorbing into the underside of deck boards.

### Fasteners

It is recommended that two stainless steel screws be screwed into the face of every board per joist. **The use of non-stainless fasteners is not recommended since they will cause discoloration near the fastener and could react negatively to the chemicals in pressure treated deck framing.**

**The use of a hidden fastener system that implements hardwood deck boards with grooved edges is not recommended since all boards used need to be "screwed and glued" as previously stated.**

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



# Lakeside Lumber

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## End Sealer

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

## Finishing Options

Treat deck materials with a penetrating sealer on all six sides prior to installation. Make sure you choose a deck sealer that is specifically designed to penetrate denser hardwood (as compared to softwood) decking products.

**Treating only the surface side of the decking material creates an unequal moisture transfer and will increase the likelihood of cupping.** Lakeside Lumber can pre-stain your hardwood decking package on all sides prior to delivery to your job site. For more information, please refer to [www.lakesidelumber.com/services](http://www.lakesidelumber.com/services).

Depending on exposure to the elements and in particular UV rays, most stained decks will need to be refinished within two years. Clear seals will typically need to be refinished every year.

Left untreated, hardwood decks will weather to a natural silver grey color. If that is the desired result, a high quality water seal product should be applied to prevent checking. To maintain a natural color, a high quality penetrating oil finish with UV inhibitors of a similar tone and color should be used after the deck is cleaned and properly prepared prior to applying the stain.

## Maintenance Options

Keep your deck free of leaves, pine needles and other debris buildup, which can retain water and clog drainage channels preventing your deck from draining and drying properly.

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

## Disclaimer

Any natural decking product is subject to variations in weight, density, color, grain and performance. Hardwood decking is also subject to dimensional changes as the moisture content in 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 hardwood decking, some oil and water based coatings and finishes may cause a reaction with the wood, i.e. drying, adhesion and color change. It is recommended that installers test any finishing product over samples of the wood decking to determine compatibility.