

# INSTALLATION MANUAL – PVC Decking

Congratulations! You have just purchased a composite decking which has many beneficial properties. It will perform well, giving many years of carefree use and many years with pride in ownership. PVC Decking has designed the material for easy applications resulting in the look of a professionally finished deck by a do-it-yourselfers. The following instructions must be followed in order to reduce the possible risk of injury or non-performance. Failure to follow instructions may void the limited warranty.

## General Information

Compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and building codes remains the responsibility of the purchaser.

## Tools and Safety

PVC decking can be cut, routed, drilled or fastened with normal woodworking tools. It is the responsibility of the user to follow safe practices when using all tools during the installation process.

- A. Standard woodworking tools:
  - a) Miter saw or handsaw
  - b) Measuring tape
  - c) #8 x 2 1/2" ceramic coated wood deck screws or stainless steel deck screws
  - d) Screwdriver (Phillips or square drive)
  - e) Level and chalk line
  - f) Rubber Mallet
- B. Optional Tools:
  - a) Drill and drill bits
  - b) Rotary tool with spiral bit

## Materials Requirements

You have a multiple choices to calculate the decking boards you required. The best thing to do is to rely on the retailer. They should be able to help you, also if overage or shortage you will receive better assistance. Otherwise you can do it yourself.

Calculations based on 16" on center

- 1) How many decking board do I need?  
Take your total square footage multiplies by 2.22 gives you the lineal footage. Then divide by the lengths you want. Example: 300 square feet x 2.22 = 666 lineal feet. If using 16" o.c.  $666 \div 16 = 41.6 = 42$  pieces of 16' deck boards.
- 2) How many PVC decking Tru-Fit Clips do I need?  
Simple calculation for clips is 2/3 of the lineal footage plus 10%  
One box (500 clips & screws) for every 375 sq/ft for 16" on center.
- 3) How many decking screw do I need?  
A box of 500 screws will do 350 liner feet of decking

Note if attaching boards on an angle you must add 8% more material. A drawing to scale will help in determining your requirements. Again as for help, the retailer does this on a daily bases.

## **Decking Span Requirement**

PVC decking meets or exceeds industry standards for 16" on center joist installation.

- A. Spacing for angled decks:
  - 30° decking angle – joist spacing = 14"
  - 45° decking angle – joist spacing = 12"
  - 60° decking angle – joist spacing = 8"
- B. Steps
  - Stair stringers should also be installed every 12" on center.

### *Tips:*

- ✧ *Make sure all joists are level*
- ✧ *Joist covers (optional) maybe used prior to installing deck boards*

## **Ventilation**

For proper ventilation under the deck, there should be a ground clearance of a minimum of 12" to ensure adequate airflow all around. PVC decking should not be attached to any solid surface or watertight flooring system, such as sheathing, waterproof membranes, roof decks or concrete patios.

## **Color Variation**

Slight color variations may exist with your deck boards. In nature, most materials will fade in color when exposed to the harsh reality of sunlight and natural weathering.

Color variation will occur on the deck board if boards are turned end-to-end which varies the wood grain appearance.

- ✧ In a similar manner that you would install roof shingles or hardwood flooring, we recommend you randomize any slight color variation that may exist within your deck boards.

## **Space Gapping**

When using wood you allow for shrinkage, with plastic or composite materials you allow for expansion.

- 1) **IMPORTANT** - Allow a minimum of 3/16" spacing gap between boards and the wood newel post.
- 2) Gapping between the dwelling and your deck board: a). If parallel to the dwelling, leaves 1/8" spacing gap. b). If the deck board are angled, leaves 3/8" spacing gap.
- 3) **IMPORTANT** – Gap between boards – Your choice it can be a minimum of 1/8' or a maximum of 3/16"

#### 4) **Unattached Thermal Expansion & Contraction**

Please note that the below table lists average expansion/contraction rates. Actual expansion/contraction for individual boards may vary.

Change in Temp. (On an average day)	12' Boards	16' Boards	20' Boards
-50° F	- 1/16"	-1/8"	-1/8"
Recommended Start Temp	80° F	80° F	80° F
+ 50° F	3/16"	1/4"	5/16"

- 5) Longer boards will experience a greater amount of expansion than shorter boards. Therefore, if possible, it is a good idea to avoid butting boards of 20 feet in length end to end. For long lengths you should make a break to separate the butt ends as per Fig #31. Another alternative is building a deck with the Herringbone pattern. It will offer a striking visual effect.
- 6) Special Note: When butt joints are used, a cleat or block (minimum of 2"x4") is needed at the butt joint to support the desired fastening method. Face fastening at butt joints is recommended to minimize the effects of expansion and contraction. When using the PVC Easy Fasteners at butt joints both boards at the butt joint need to be clipped individually.

#### **Storage & Handling**

PVC decking is the premium pre-finished decking product and it should be treated as such.

- ✧ Removal of the protective film should be done just prior to placing the board on the deck.
- ✧ Carefully load and unload, do not dump.
- ✧ Do not drag decking against abrasive surfaces.

#### Storage

Lay on a flat surface with support every 24 inches, wood grain surface facing up and covering with a tarp in a shaded area.

#### **PVC Decking Classic Installation**

It is recommended to use those screws approved for use with treated wood or standard stainless steel decking screws. PVC decking can be installed by using one of the following methods:

- A. Face Fastening:  
A screw that is approved for use with treated wood in the size #8x2 1/2" should be available at your local retail store. Optional: use stainless steel screws. Two screws are required at every joist – Spacing 1" from the side and a minimum of 1" from the end of the board.
- B. Hidden fasteners: Optional choices by using other products on the market offering hidden deck fasteners:
- a). Tiger Claw® (TC-P Cellular PVC Fastener\*). See more information at [www.deckfastener.com](http://www.deckfastener.com)
  - b). Lumber Loc® Fastener\*. See more information at [www.lumberloc.com](http://www.lumberloc.com)

#### **PVC Decking Elite Installation**

PVC Decking Elite is designed with the Tru-Fit Fastening System, which not only makes construction a snap, but also adds beauty with its concealed hidden fasteners.

- 1) Cut a deck board to required length. Starting the 1<sup>st</sup> board from the house leaves a 1/8" spacing if your decking is parallel to the house, leaves 3/8" spacing if it's

on angled. Check that the board is straight. With your selective #8 x 2 1/2" screws, fasten the board down. The first screws should be 1" from the end and 1" from the edge. At least one screw should be used at each joist.

- 2) With the 1<sup>st</sup> board in place. Position clips firmly in place at supporting joists. Now with your power screw driver hold it at an 80-degree angle, tighten screw firmly down until the screw head is flush with Tru-Fit clip.
- 3) It is advisable to angle the deck board when moving it into position. The Tru-Fit clip is designed to leave 1/8" space. If the spacing is more than 1/8". It may be necessary to push the board to get the correct spacing.
- 4) Repeated same operation by fastening clips at each joist.

#### *Tru-Fit clips Installation Tips*

- ✧ *Make sure the clip is in the proper position with screw head flush to the clip. Screw head should not be protruding.*
- ✧ *In certain instances where individual joists are low, leaving a gap between the underside of the deckboard and the joist, we recommend standing on the deckboard to press the deckboard flush against the joist while installing the Tru-Fit clips. In extreme cases, shims may be recommended to level the joists before installing the Tru-Fit clips.*

### **Install Last Deck Board**

When it comes time to place the last outside decking board there are several procedures:

- ✧ If the distance is greater than 1/2" of the width of the board simply rip the board 1/4" less than the space left. This leaves a 1/4" gap between the decking and the fascia. Fasten with two screws each joist.
- ✧ If space is less than 1/2 of the width, you may choose to add another outside rim joist. With the wider new measurement, rip the board 1/4" narrower than opening.

### **Install Fascia Board**

- 1) Measure twice so that you are accurate. Then cut to size. To apply board we recommend that you apply quality exterior grade construction glue on the back. Two beads near the center. Be careful not to get any on the front face of the board.
- 2) Using 1 3/4" approved screws, starting 1 1/2" from either end, fastening two screws, one 3" below the other. Now at intervals of every 12" fasten with two screws. Make sure top screw is 2" below the top of the deck. Keep checking that the top edge of the fascia is flush with the top of the decking.

Note: Fascia boards are for decorative finishing needs. They are not intended to be used structurally.

#### *Tips:*

- ✧ *It is advisable if fascia is applied in cool weather to leave a 3/16" gap, if warm leave 1/8" gap. It is advisable to paint behind the joints black (joints are less visible)*
- ✧ *For corners we recommend the corners to be mitered. It gives a better-finished appearance.*

**Decking Sizes and Dimensions:**

Nominal Size	Actual Size	Length
5/4x6 PVC Decking Classic	1.00" x 5.50"	12', 16' and 20'
6/4x6 PVC Decking Elite	1.25" x 5.50"	12', 16' and 20'
1x12 Fascia	0.50" x 11.50"	12'

**Warranty:**

PVC Decking comes with a 25-year limited warranty that provides comprehensive coverage against splintering, splitting, rot, and decay and termite damage. For a copy of the limited warranty see your PVC Decking dealer or visit [www.renewresources.com](http://www.renewresources.com)