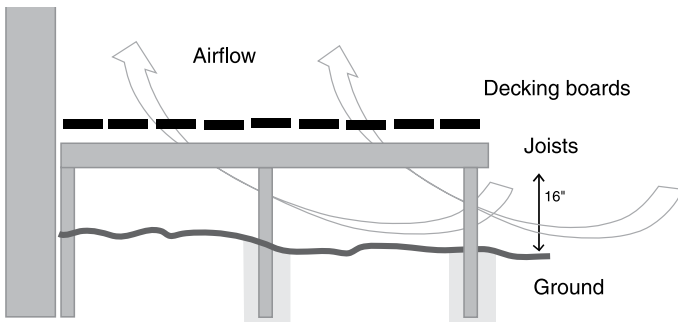


Handling and Storage

Exotic tropical hardwood decking should be stored out of direct sunlight. Prior to installation, it should be **allowed to acclimate and stabilize** to the installation environment's humidity level. Once the decking is delivered to a job site, keep the material off the ground by placing a few pieces of scrap lumber under the deck package. Cover the material with a tarp to protect it from the elements (sun and rain). If left uncovered, unfinished and unprotected, the decking may warp or split.

Planning Your Deck

- **Ventilation:** During construction, it is imperative to build the deck surface at least 16" above the ground or building surface. Adequate air circulation under the deck surface is needed in order to prevent cupping and warping of deck boards. In wet areas over the water, additional clearance is recommended.



- **Side gapping:** To allow for proper ventilation and drainage, the decking should be installed with an 1/8" gap on air dried material. During the first year after installation, the 5/4"x6" decking will typically expand and contract 1/16" to 1/8" as it acclimates and stabilizes to its environment. As with all exterior wood products, values may vary on the same deck based on sun exposure, ventilation and humidity levels.
- **End-to-end spacing:** Because exotic tropical hardwood decking will not significantly expand or contract lengthwise, the ends of the deck boards do not require any gapping and should be installed butted together.

Working with Exotics

- **Tools:** Because the decking is very hard and dense, high quality carbide-tipped saw/router blades and sharp drill bits should be used.
- **Sealing:** Seal all ends after cutting with an end sealer like Anchorseal® or a paraffin wax to help prevent checking and splitting.

Working with Exotics (cont'd)

- **Predrilling/countersinking:** Because the decking is very hard, predrilling to the screw shank diameter and countersinking all exposed fasteners is recommended.
- **Screws:** 2-1/2" stainless steel screws or hidden fasteners designed for tropical hardwood are recommended. Galvanized screws or fasteners are not recommended as they can discolor the wood. Because dense properties can make it difficult to install screws, a screw wax applied directly to the screws can ease installation.

Fastening Methods

- **Plugs:** There are many screw and plug systems available. One option is the DeckWise plugs.
- **Clips:** A hidden fastener designed for tropical hardwood is recommended. Use hidden fasteners that gap each board with the proper spacing and allow for natural expansion and contraction.
- **Screws:** When the preferred method of installation is face screwing, discreet trim head screws are recommended. Pre-drill and countersink each hole. Use two stainless steel screws to secure each board to each joist. Secure with color-coated screw heads for a more desirable look.

Finishing/Maintaining

Because of the durability, it does not require a water sealant; however, we recommend adding a high-quality penetrating oil sealant as the final installation step. Left unfinished, the color will fade to a silver/gray tone.

Cleaning

Periodic washing with mild deck cleaning detergent and water is necessary to remove surface dirt that may accumulate on the surface of the board. Use a soft bristle brush to clean dirt and debris from the surface of the board. This will also prevent the buildup of pollen and debris that can cause mold and mildew growth. Pressure washers should be used with a fan-tipped nozzle to avoid cutting into or lifting the wood surface.

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