

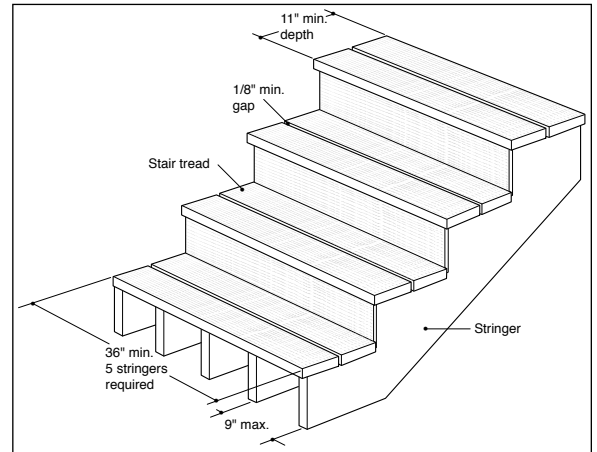
## Tools and Items Needed

- Drill/power screwdriver
- 1/8" drill bit
- Circular saw with carbide-tip blade
- 2 1/2" composite wood deck screws
- Tape measure
- Carpenter's pencil
- Safety glasses/goggles

Notice to installers:

- **DO NOT** use cordless impact drivers
- Set drill speed to 1500-1750 RPM
- Max torque not to exceed 23 inch pounds
- Pre-drill knots or dense hardwood

Prior to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area. For best results, follow these simple installation instructions, paying close attention to gapping, spacing and fastener requirements.



*Note: Always follow best workmanship practices. Including, but not limited to, square cutting both board ends prior to installation.*

## Stringer Spacing

Stringers spacing is a maximum of 9" on-center. Minimum of 5 stringers with 4 spans. For commercial applications, maximum of 8" on-center.

## Spacing

Allow a minimum of 1/8" between board ends. Allow 1/4" distance between all stair tread material and any permanent structure or post.

## Fasteners

For a list of recommended and compatible fasteners please visit <http://deckorators.com/plan-install/literature.aspx>. Recommended fasteners are those which are recommended by the manufacturer of Deckorators Stair Tread. Compatible fasteners are those which have been tested and recommended for use with Deckorators Stair Tread by the fastener manufacturer. The use of a non-recommended fastener will not void the Deckorators Decking Warranty; however if a stair tread failure is caused by the use of a non-recommended fastener, any corresponding warranty claim will be denied.

For ease of installation, we recommend using 3" corrosion-resistant, composite wood deck screws. These screws help minimize the common "mushroom" effect that sometimes occurs when using standard fasteners. They can also reduce the amount of pre-drilling and countersinking. If using ordinary coarse thread deck screws, always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink prior to driving screws.

Screws must be driven flush with the Deckorators stair tread surface. Do not over-tighten.

Use two fasteners per stair tread at each stringer. For any stair tread where two boards meet end-to-end, an additional stringer is required so each end is supported. Always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink at board ends when using other composite or wood screws. Be careful not to over-tighten screws near board ends.

## Color Variation

Like most composites, Deckorators stair tread will have color variations from piece to piece. This is due to naturally occurring variations in wood fibers and polymers. Purchasing all required stair tread material at one time is recommended, as manufacturing runs can produce slightly different colors. Do not install if color variation is not acceptable.

## Preventing Mold and Mildew Growth

Mold and mildew can be a nuisance on any exterior building surface, regardless of the material. If the conditions are right, they will grow on wood, plastic, concrete, metal, and other surfaces. Mold formation is the most prevalent in consistently wet, shaded areas. Spores from the natural environment are carried by the wind and commonly land on deck surfaces. It is important to note that the appearance of mold/mildew is a function of nature, not necessarily a deficiency with any of the material on which it grows.

## Cleaning

Periodic washing with soap/mild detergent and water will help remove surface dirt. This will also help prevent the buildup of pollen, debris and spores that can cause and accelerate mold/mildew growth. *Caution: A pressure washer must not be used to "blast" mold/mildew or soils from a deck surface. The abrasive nature of water stream can potentially cause damage by driving spores deeper into the material,*

which may create a more challenging problem to remedy. A pressure washer with a fan-tipped nozzle must only be used to lightly wet or rinse wood or composite deck surfaces.

There are many deck wash and exterior cleaning products available at retail. Only use cleaners intended for your application. Instructions provided by the manufacturer must be followed. Some cleaning products and inhibitors may be more effective than others, depending on the environmental conditions your deck is subjected to. Additionally, it is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it the the entire deck ([www.deckorators.com](http://www.deckorators.com)).

### Mold Inhibitors

As with deck washes, there are several mold-inhibitor products available from paint stores, hardware stores, online outlets and home centers to prevent long-term mold/mildew growth. For any product selected, be certain to read, understand, and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. Depending upon the environmental factors affecting your deck, some preventative cleaning products may be more effective than others. It may be necessary to try more than one product. For ongoing preventive maintenance, follow the manufacturer's recommendation. *Note: Deckorators is not suitable for structural use. It must not be used for primary load-bearing members such as posts, joists, beams, or stringers. The same common-sense precautions should be taken when handling Deckorators as with wood or other building materials. Dust masks and eye protection devices are recommended to avoid possible irritation from sawdust chips. Gloves will help protect hands. Hands should be washed after construction work.*

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