



Decking

INSTALLATION GUIDE

2025.02



ARBOR
WOOD co

THERMALLY MODIFIED WOOD

STORAGE & HANDLING

Arbor Wood Co. products should be stored indoors whenever possible and/or remain covered with a waterproof tarp until ready for installation. Boards must be stacked uniformly and elevated off the ground a minimum of 4". Avoid exposure to sunlight/UV as it can cause the boards to become lighter in tone. Always remember to handle with care when moving the product.

Arbor Wood has a lower moisture content and reduced expansion/contraction than standard wood, but it is still a good practice to ensure the wood has properly acclimated to local site conditions. It is recommended to have Arbor Wood Co. products on site for a minimum of one week prior to installation to acclimatize to the moisture and humidity of the installation environment. It is best to avoid storing materials on-site for prolonged periods prior to installation unless stored indoors in a dry location.

COLOR & WEATHERING

Thermal modification changes the naturally occurring sugars in the wood, resulting in beautiful, rich, brown tones which extend through the full thickness of the material. Since Arbor Wood is still a natural product it is subject to variations in weight, density, color, and grain patterns. In an exterior environment, unfinished Arbor Wood products will move to a beautiful silver/gray in 8-12 months. This does not impact the performance characteristics of the wood itself. The speed of this graying process depends on the intensity of exposure to environmental elements like the sun and rain combined with the type of application. Regular maintenance with a penetrating oil will reduce checking and cracking and will extend the life expectancy of the product.



Arbor Wood Ash : Raw



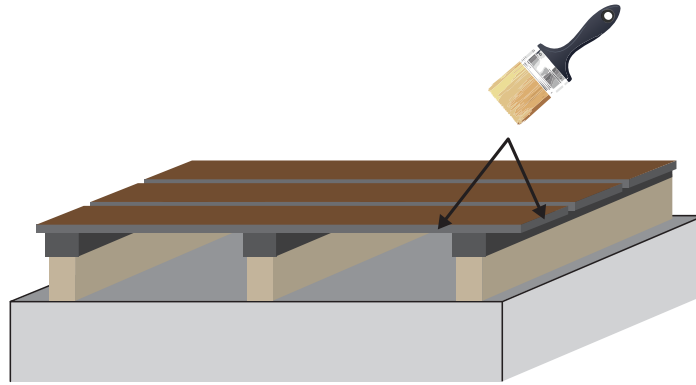
Arbor Wood Ash : Raw - Aged 6-12 mos.



Arbor Wood Ash : Raw - Fully Weathered

To maintain the original color we recommend applying a penetrating oil such as Cutek Extreme® along with a UV Colortone as clear oil finishes alone are not UV resistant. A light sanding or application of Cutek Wood Reviver will remove the surface silverying and restore the original wood tones. Please note, product color and factory applied finishes are not covered under the product warranty.





FINISHING

Pre-finishing all deck boards prior to assembly is the only way to ensure that all 4 sides are coated evenly. It is highly recommended to coat all wood decking with a penetrating oil such as Cutek Extreme® along with a UV Colortone prior to installation on all 4 sides. This process helps the wood acclimate more slowly and minimizes surface checking and wood movement. Even if your goal is to allow the wood to naturally gray or silver out over time, finishing at this point will help protect the wood when it is most vulnerable.

NOTE: *Whether you are finishing the project or not, sealing all cut ends with an end grain sealer or clear oil finish is highly recommended to reduce cracking and/or checking near the ends of the boards.*

GRAIN PATTERN, CHECKS, & HAIRLINE CRACKS

As Arbor Wood is a natural wood product, there may be a variance in grain from board to board. It is also possible to observe some small surface checking and/or hairline cracks in the wood. These instances are a natural occurrence and are not a reason for a claim. Regular application of Cutek Extreme® can help minimize the occurrence of surface hairline cracks.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

It is important to ensure the surface of your wood remains clean. Black surface stains can be caused by dirt, debris, pollen and other airborne and microscopic elements resting on the surface of the material. Certain environments provide exceptional growing conditions for mold and fungus, conditions that often fall within, but are not limited to shaded decks or siding. This does not impact the integrity of the wood, but it does mean you should be clearing the surface of your deck more often and taking additional preventative care considering surrounding conditions. It is important to remember the same occurrence can happen on any surface, such as rocks, glass, PVC, and composite products. This staining is removable with light pressure washing and a renewing/cleaning agent.

WUI COMPLIANT INSTALLATION

When installing Arbor Wood decking in a WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) zone please consult the local building code in your area for a full list of requirements and to ensure your deck is compliant with requirements for ignition-resistant construction in WUI areas. For more information on WUI and requirements please speak with your local building code inspector.



WARRANTY

Arbor Wood Co. products are covered under a limited 20-year Warranty. This Arbor Wood Co. warranty is made to the original purchaser of the Product(s) (the "Purchaser"); the original owner of the structure on which the Product(s) are installed; and to the next owner of that structure (together "Owner"). Arbor Wood Co. express warranties may not be assigned to any subsequent owners of the structure. Arbor Wood Co. warrants that the Product(s) will remain free from fungal degradation, buckling, structural failure, separating, and rupturing for a period of 20 years from the date the installation is completed. When the Product(s) have been stored, handled, applied, finished and maintained in accordance with Arbor Wood Co.'s installation, application, finishing and maintenance instructions in effect at the time of application. Color and applied finishes are not warranted. These warranties apply only to above-ground installations made in accordance with the instructions. Be sure to consult full product warranty for specific questions.



WARNING

Do not use nails to fasten your Arbor Wood Co. decking. Doing so will void the warranty. Only stainless-steel screws are approved for installation whether using clips or face fastening.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
INCLUDING FULL WARRANTY,
HOW-TO VIDEOS & MORE,
FOLLOW THE QR CODE.**



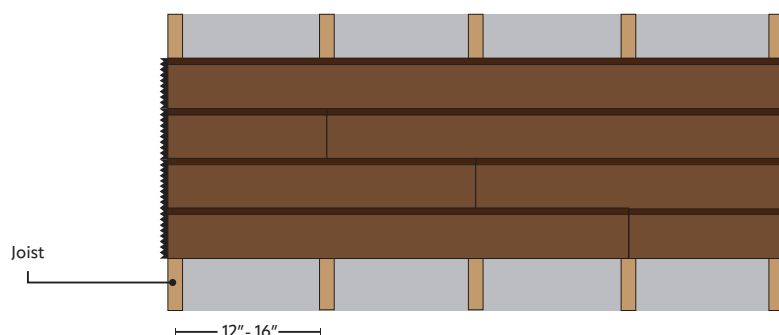
Arbor Wood Decking Installation Information

DISCLAIMER

Consult your local building code to ensure your project is installed in accordance with local requirements and consult your local building office to understand permitting requirements. Drawings and schematics used to show where to place screws and nails are for reference purposes only. Safety glasses and a dust mask should always be worn when working with Arbor Wood. Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products generates wood dust. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. Arbor Wood Co. recommends end-sealing cut boards with a clear, water-resistant penetrating oil such as Cutek Extreme®.

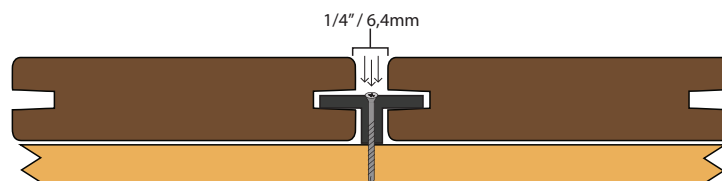
JOIST SPACING

Before installation ensure all deck joists are spaced evenly and level so that everything planes through appropriately. Consult your local building code for appropriate joist spacing. Arbor Wood Co. recommends 16" spacing on-center (middle of the joist to middle of the joist).



BOARD SPACING

Arbor Wood decking should always be installed with a minimum of 1/4" spacing between deck boards. It is also recommended to leave a gap of 3/4" between the first deck board and the house to allow for proper drainage.



CALCULATING CLIP NEEDS

Decking installation using DeckWise ThermoClip™ Thermally Modified Wood Hidden Deck Fastener system requires 175 clips and screws for 100 square feet (or 1.75 Clips/Square Foot). Kits are sold in quantities of 90, 175, 525, and 1,050. For more on calculating your needs visit the Coverage Calculator from DeckWise. For other clip systems please refer to the manufacturer's provided installation instructions. In general, 2 clips per square foot is a good rule of thumb when ordering clips. For installation of hidden fastener decking, a clip is required at each joist on every board.

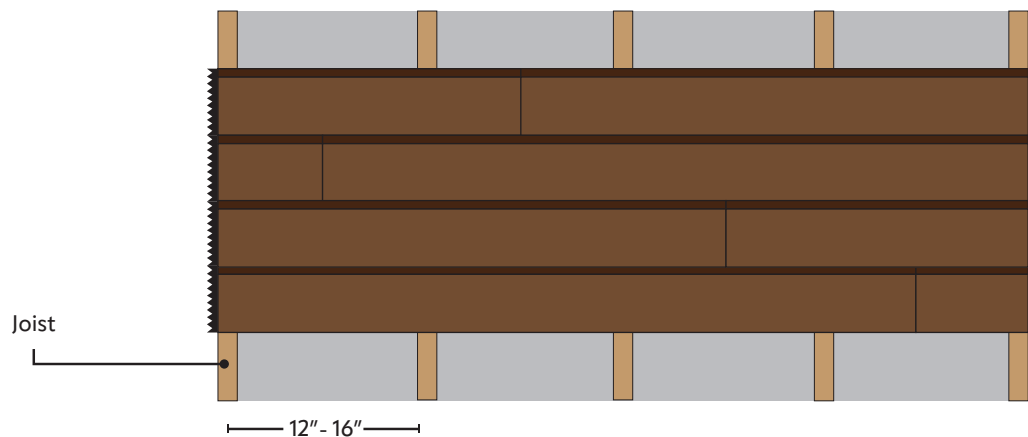


FACE FASTENING

When using non-grooved deck boards in a face fastened installation, pre-drilling of the board is required before fastening with an outdoor rated, stainless-steel deck screw. Make sure not to drive a screw within $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the end or side of the board. Plug systems can also be used for a more polished look. Plugs are available in both thermally modified ash and thermally modified pine.

END MATCHED DECKING

If installing decking featuring an end match joint there is no need to end on a joist and fasten with a butt joint, simply match the male end of the first board with the female end of the next board and continue with installation. If the end match is not matching up well, try flipping the board over for a better fit. Ensure the boards are fastened securely on either joist to the sides of the end match joint before proceeding.



BUTT JOINTS

Where two boards meet on a single joist, the preferred method is to use a sister joist parallel to the main joist. Install 2 (two) ThermoClip™ Hidden Deck Fasteners — one on each joist — where the boards meet. Only one centered fastener can be installed at their meeting point.

GROUND LEVEL & ROOFTOP DECKS

Arbor Wood Co. decking products should never be installed in contact with the ground or a rooftop surface. It is important to allow for regular airflow under the decking and to eliminate trapped moisture under the decking. A substructure frame must always be used when installing decking. Ensure a minimum of 4" of open area below decking surface for adequate ventilation. If skirting the deck, ensure there are areas or clearance for air to flow through. It is recommended that deck boards are spaced with $\frac{1}{4}$ " gap between boards.



Plug Installation and Hidden Fastener Installation

Note: Stair treads and perimeter deck boards require a non-grooved deck board and should always be installed with traditional face fastening methods. Avoid a cantilever of more than ¾" on leading edge of stair tread.

Note: Steps 2-7 should be followed if using wood plugs only. If plugs are not needed or desired please skip steps 2-7.

STEP 1

INSTALLING THE FIRST DECK BOARD

Apply DeckWise® JoistTape™ (recommended but not required) to the top of all joists. JoistTape™ prevents joist wood rot as well as seals around deck screws. Even though joists may seem even, changes in weather can cause board movement. JoistTape™ will also help prevent squeaking from uneven joists in the future.

STEP 2

DRILL A 1/8" PILOT HOLE

Use a 1/8" drill bit to pre-drill a pilot hole for the initial face driven screws. Drill deep enough to penetrate the deck board and NOT the underlying joist material. (All ThermoClip™ Hidden Deck Fastener systems, 175 count and above, include a 1/8" High Speed Drill Bit. We suggest using the 3-in-1 DeckWise® Drill & Drive™ (not included) which has a 1/8" drill bit, 3/8" countersink bit, and screw gun T15 tip that will help speed up this process).

STEP 3

DRILL A 3/8" COUNTERSINK HOLE APPROXIMATELY 3/8" DEEP (PLUG INSTALLATION ONLY)

Use a 3/8" countersink bit to bore a hole approximately 1/4" to 3/8" deep (depending on your deck board thickness) for each screw to be hidden by a hardwood plug. Be sure your countersink bit is sharp and leaves a clean edge. If using trim head screws, proceed to step 4.

STEP 4

DRIVE A DECK SCREW THROUGH THE COUNTERSUNK HOLE

Next, securely drive a deck screw down into the countersunk hole into the joist below. (All ThermoClip™ fastener kits, 175 count and above, have extra stainless-steel deck screws included in them for starter boards.) Wood plugs will next be installed into the holes to hide the deck screws and create a smooth, blemish free surface.

STEP 5

INSERT WOOD PLUG IN COUNTERSUNK HOLE

Place a dab of wood glue into the countersink hole from the above steps. This will secure the wood plug from popping up in the future. Plus, it will act as a moisture barrier, sealing the countersunk hole and screw. Insert wood plug while glue is still moist.

STEP 6

FLUSH CUT ANY PLUG MATERIAL

Once the plug is hammered in and the glue is dry, remove any excess plug material protruding above the surface of the deck board. You can accomplish this by using a flush cut pull saw, belt sander or an orbital sander with 80 grit sandpaper.



STEP 7

SAND SMOOTH

Sand smooth all areas where a plug was installed so that plug is flush with deck surface. A round, random orbit sander with 80-120 grit sandpaper works best.

STEP 8

PROCEED WITH DECK BOARD INSTALLATION

Insert a stainless-steel screw at a 90° angle through the hole in the center of the ThermoClip™ fastener, and down into the joist. It should not take much downward pressure to tighten the deck board. Once the board is snug to the joist you can install another fastener clip over the next joist. A screw gun with an adjustable clutch works best for this by turning the clutch down to avoid over-driving screws. Secure each board using one fastener and one screw per joist.

STEP 8A

SCREW TIGHTENING METHOD # 1

Place clips in the leading-edge groove and loosely screw them into the joist, holding the clip level with your fingers and leaving the screw shaft protruding above the board surface. When a row of clips is in place, install the next board over the loose clips into the groove of the board. Once a few boards are installed with fasteners, go back and tighten down the rows of screws and clips in each gap.

STEP 8B

SCREW TIGHTENING METHOD #2

To keep the fastener clip straight and secure in the leading-edge groove; cut a piece of scrap groove board and use it to help hold the hidden fastener down before screwing in. Once the screw and clip are tight, remove the scrap board. This helps ensure the fastener stays fully straight while remaining boards are attached after a row of clips are installed. Hold the scrap board in place and align the screw hole in the fastener with the center of the joist. Secure fastener and continue along the length of the board, adding fasteners at every joist.

NOTE: GAP SPACING

When installing ThermoClip™ fasteners, DeckWise® spacer tools are provided to ensure fastener spacer legs are not overly compressed while installing deck boards. Remove spacer tools after each deck board is fastened.

STEP 9

REPEAT STEP 8 & ADD MORE BOARDS

Repeat step 8 until all deck boards are installed up to the last board. Slide the next board into place, making sure fasteners fit into the edge groove. Install the next row of ThermoClip™ fasteners on the opposite side of this board and fasten in the same method used.

STEP 10

INSTALLING THE LAST DECK BOARD

On the last deck board, fastening clips will not be used and it will be necessary to fasten the outside edge with face screws every 24 inches. Optionally, these screws can be concealed by countersinking a 3/8" hole and using wood plugs. It is also recommended to apply a small amount of construction adhesive on the outside joists for



Traditional Face Fastening Installation For Non-Grooved Deck Boards

STEP 1

INSTALLING THE FIRST DECK BOARD

Apply DeckWise® JoistTape™ (recommended but not required) to the top of all joists. JoistTape™ prevents joist wood rot as well as seals around deck screws. Even though joists may seem even, changes in weather can cause board movement. JoistTape™ will also help prevent squeaking from uneven joists in the future.

STEP 2

DRILL A 1/8" PILOT HOLE

Use a 1/8" drill bit to pre-drill a pilot hole for the initial face driven screws. Drill deep enough to penetrate the deck board and NOT the underlying joist material.

STEP 3

DRIVE A DECK SCREW UNTIL FLUSH WITH SURFACE

Next, securely drive a deck screw through the deck board and into the joist below. Be sure not to sink the screw too deep or leave the top exposed. Continue with all deck boards until complete. Be sure to use a spacer to ensure a 1/4" gap is consistent throughout the entire installation. To avoid splitting do not install deck screws within 1" of the edge and ends of deck boards.

STEP 4

INSTALLING THE LAST DECK BOARD

On the last deck board face screws should be secured every 24 inches. Optionally, these screws can be concealed by countersinking a 3/8" hole and using wood plugs. It is also recommended to apply a small amount of construction adhesive on the outside joists for leveling and to reduce possible noise.



Arbor Wood. **For Good.**



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