

Installation Tips

Whether you hire a contractor or build your project yourself, note: treated wood will last a long time, therefore so will your workmanship. You'll be happier - and your project will look better - if you take your time and observe the following construction techniques.

- Before you begin nailing, lay out your lumber with the best-looking face exposed. Decide which pieces you want for visible areas, and which pieces for under-structure.
- Separate deck boards with some gaps in between to allow for expansion and contraction like other normal decking construction.
- Avoid long spans in construction. The greater the distance between supporting points, the more force developed within the wood as it dries. Also avoid designs with long cantilevers unsecured at one end.
- Use enough nails. Skimping doesn't pay. Use two nails across a 2 x 4 and three across a 2 x 6. Drive nails at a slight angle toward each other.
- Nails and other hardware should be hot-dipped zinc-coated or equally well protected material. Otherwise, weather may cause them to rust, leaving streaks.
- To reduce splitting, drill a pilot hole about three quarters the diameter of the nail. For dense or brittle wood, grind sharpness from nails or blunt the points by striking them carefully with a hammer. Blunt nails cut through; sharp ones pry apart.
- Use 3 1/4" nails on nominal two-inch decking. Use two at each joint with 2 x 4s laid flat; use three for 2 x 6s laid flat. 3" nails are recommended for 5/4" decking.
- Lumber wider than six inches should not be used as a flat surface. Wide, flat boards are subject to ponding of rain water, which can lead to cupping problems. It is better to use two 2 x 6's than one 2 x 12.
- If a board is bowed, install it with the crown up. Gravity and the weight of people and furniture will flatten it.
- If a board has a slight bend to it, it sometimes can be straightened as it is nailed in place.

Recommended On Site Treatment

Once you cut or drill or shape the timber it is very important to treat those affected areas with a hand-on applied coating such as "Enseal" available and supplied by Arch Wood Protection or any similar product.

Recommended Hardware

Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners (meeting ASTM A153) and connectors (ASTM A653 Class G185 sheet) or better are recommended for protection against moisture often present where treated wood is usually used. Untreated steel and aluminium should not be used in direct contact with this wood.

Maintenance Tips

- No maintenance is needed to renew resistance to fungi and termites. **APP TimberDuraPine** has a 20 years limited warranty against these organisms.
- However, protection is required to maintain the wood's appearance against weather. Sun and rain cycles cause stresses in lumber and result in swelling, shrinking, warping, and cracking.
- To help protect your project against moisture damage, apply an effective brand of water repellent as soon as your outdoor wood project is finished or, for large projects, as sections are completed. Water repellent should be applied every year or two.
- To revitalize a dingy appearance caused by dirt and mildew, use deck brightener to clean the outdoor wood.
- To validate the warranty in some states and for some species, apply an end-cut solution.

Coating

You can stain or paint **APP TimberDuraPine**. Also, you can also coat this wood with a water repellent; in fact, we highly recommend it. The best way to tackle these jobs depends on the wood you have, its exposure, and the coating you plan to use. Follow the guidelines given here, and then choose the scenario below that best fits your situation.

When wood is pressure-treated, it is saturated with a liquid solution of preservative diluted in water. In a typical situation, the wood you buy is still somewhat damp.

PAINT — Do not apply paint until the wood is dry, both on the surface and internally. Otherwise, as the wood dries out, escaping moisture will cause blisters and poor adhesion in the paint. We recommend a six month waiting period before applying paint (see more below). Once the wood is dry, the procedure for painting treated wood is no different from that for painting untreated wood. Application of a primer is suggested for best results. (We recommend against using paint on deck flooring because frequently used pathways, such as from the steps to the door, will become worn.)

STAIN — Some stains are heavily pigmented and form a film, just as paint does. The recommendations for their application are the same as those for paint, including our advice against using them for the floor of a deck. Most stains, however, are more transparent and do not block moisture movement. There are other differences, though. Stains may be oil-based or water-based. Some formulations can be used immediately; others perform best when the wood is allowed to dry for a while. Best advice: follow the stain manufacturer's instructions.