

TIGERDECK® TIGERWOOD DECKING STORAGE & HANDLING

TigerDeck® is kiln dried to provide long-term stability. A very small amount of shrinkage and expansion will happen over time and is dependent upon your climate conditions. Prior to installation, TigerDeck's® **Tigerwood decking** should be kept in banded packages, protected from direct sunlight and kept from direct contact with the ground. Due to the natural properties of TigerDeck®, exposed untreated material will begin a color transformation that will lead to uneven color if some boards are left exposed to weather and others are not.

TOOLS REQUIRED TO INSTALL YOUR TIGERDECK®

TIGERWOOD DECK

TigerDeck® provides a patented **hidden fastening system** to eliminate unsightly penetrations in the Tigerwood deck. Our clip design allows the clip to flex with the underlying joist system while maintaining rock solid holding power. The clips are stainless steel alloy and come with star drive bits and stainless steel screws. The black anodized coating on clips and screws will last a lifetime. Clips gap to 3/16" by design. For installation over 4" joists or 45 degree (herringbone) applications an angle clip is available from your distributor which does everything our standard clip (which slides over 2" joists) will do.

Circular Saw (we recommend a minimum of 12 amp power) with sharp carbide tipped hardwood crosscut blade.

Saw Horses allow trimming at a safe working height. You may want to set up a miter saw or radial arm saw for safety, speed and accuracy in trimming.

Reversible Electric Drill (we recommend minimum 12 volt power if cordless) with variable speed settings and clutch. You will need drill bits and screws to pre-drill holes for occasional stainless steel face screws.

Bow Wrench (or similar) is essential for proper installation of TigerDeck Tigerwood deck boards using our patented stainless steel clips. If your lumberyard does not stock the Bow Wrench you can call them directly at 800-466-9626.

You may need additional tools depending on the complexity of the project. For example; if you wish to really dress up your deck (takes very little extra time and effort) by plugging exposed screws you would need: a plug cutter (Pro-Plug System), a diameter matching counter sink drill bit, glue (we recommend exterior Titebond III) and a belt sander (always sand with the grain and use 120 grit or finer sand paper).

TIGERDECK® TIGERWOOD DECKING – PREPARING FOR INSTALL

ACCLIMATE AND SEAL DECK BOARDS

Prep and inspect TigerDeck® Tigerwood decking before you begin and acclimate your deck boards prior to installation. Like an interior floor, your TigerDeck® boards have been kiln dried to very low moisture content and it is designed to fit average climate conditions. The drier the climate, the more helpful it is to lay out your deck boards upside down (no gaps) to allow adjustment to your climate prior to installation. If you can leave them for a week or more this will allow them to equalize to your local climate. The hotter and drier the climate the longer you should let them adjust. Just prior to flipping them over for installation, we highly recommend applying a 'sealer' coat of either Penofin or Messmers to the back of the boards (or the same UV protector that you will use on the face). You can slop it on, and it is better if you do not wipe off excess, as you will on the face.

INSPECT EACH BOARD AND TRIM OUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

DEFECTS.

Ends: Each deck board has 1/2" to 5" of excess length. Our mills do not trim to exact 2' multiples.

Shake: Shake is break in the fibers of the wood caused by wind or other natural stresses while the tree is alive. After kiln drying and processing, shake appears as scalloped splits along the edge of a piece or as a 'fish scale' on the face. It is the main defect to look for and trim out, because it causes sharp edges that can give splinters when handled. TigerDeck® is otherwise very smooth and almost splinter free.

Crook or Warp: Crook is the result of natural stresses in the wood fiber. [TigerDeck® products](#) are kiln dried to 8% +/- 3% moisture content. At this moisture content most crook and warp that may have happened over time is complete. The decking application is a very harsh environment for wood. Moisture and heat gradients will cause the wood to try to move over time. Install TigerDeck® as soon as practical after acclimating. Proper and tight installation of our system greatly minimizes splits and other time related defects. The Bow Wrench will straighten most of the crook during installation. However, if there is still too much crook, trimming the board into shorter pieces allows utilization of the piece.

Knots and Holes: Very few knots and holes get by our graders but you may find some. They do not affect the structural integrity of the piece and may be left in or trimmed out for aesthetic reasons.

Color: TigerDeck® is tan/gold with black striping and accents. But each piece will be different and can run from an entirely light tan piece to one that is mostly black striping. We recommend that pieces be laid out before installation on the deck to match the color gradient effect desired. Exposure to the sun will even the colors to a rich reddish tan.

Oxidation: All wood/composite decking products and some 'plastic/fiberglass' decking products will chemically react to any metal contact. Generally this chemical reaction shows up as 'black stain' or 'black spots'. We recommend saving leftover TigerDeck® trim to use as 'Coasters' between the metal and the deck. Cable rail, aluminum balusters, iron railing, iron furniture, metal shavings, welding dust, and airborne industrial metal pollution will all eventually stain the wood/composite with direct wood contact without a physical barrier such as wood or spar varnish. In time, metal contact with any wood/composite deck material will Oxidize/Corrode regardless of what oil or water based UV Protector/Stain et al is used (or not). The only way to remove this chemical stain is sanding.

TigerDeck® is a very dense hardwood with amazing strength and [durability properties](#) when compared to other wood and composite decking products. TigerDeck® is a natural product and our graders and quality control attempt to ship a 100% usable product. We adhere to or exceed industry (West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau) standard maximum 5% off grade pieces per shipment to our customers.

TIGERDECK® TIGERWOOD DECKING – IMPORTANT

INSTALLATION TIPS

- 1. Never install any TigerDeck® product flat against green treated wood, roofs, concrete** or in any application which traps moisture behind the piece (the obvious exception is Tigerwood deck board back against any joist edge, green treat or otherwise). Flat face to flat face creates a moisture gradient and almost always creates a heat gradient as well. This condition creates stresses, which will cause 'cupping', 'splits', 'warp' and other types of damage. Always use TigerDeck® products as a system and as per our design intent. EXAMPLE: TigerDeck® [Tigerwood decking](#) boards must be gapped by our clips or 3/16" apart if face screwed to allow air/water flow.
- 2. If you want a solid surface with no gaps** for covered exterior use, purchase our TigerDeck® T&G Porch Flooring. EXAMPLE: Installing TigerDeck® on a room roof demands a floated system; use 2x2 or 2x4 TigerDeck as joists, Tigerwood lathe between roof and joists, drill vent holes in fascia and use TigerDeck® fastening system.
- 3. All screws should be pre-drilled to prevent splitting** (the only exceptions are the screws provided with TigerDeck® clips when screwed into softwood joists). All

screws should also be stainless steel to match the quality and longevity of TigerDeck® products. Minimum space between product and ground or concrete is 16", installed on wooden joist material with adequate ventilation and drainage under the deck.

4. After installation it is highly recommended that you rent a commercial floor sander. Using the finest sandpaper available for the sander (120 grit or finer), LIGHTLY sand the surface of your deck. This will clean all the dirt, water stains and etc off the deck and open the cells to receive your UV protector. You can of course sand each board lightly with a belt sander prior to installation and try not to walk on the finished portion of the deck prior to [applying UV protector](#).

5. TigerDeck® Tigerwood decking, like most other wood products, will leave black marks from oxidation when iron is in direct contact with the wood. To avoid this **use non-metallic coasters or blocks to separate metal from direct contact with TigerDeck® products.**

6. Safety Recommendations: While we have not heard of any allergic reactions to TigerDeck® materials, it is always recommended when working with hardwood lumber to wear safety glasses and a dust mask. Wood splinters should be removed immediately to prevent infection. All standard safety precautions should be used when cutting, shaping or drilling the product.