



Decking Installation Points

1. STORAGE

- Store Solarwood decking in a dry, covered area if you are planning to finish after installation. Always store elevated off the ground, whether you are leaving nature and letting it grey out or finishing with a recommended oil.

2. SUBSTRUCTURE & VENTILATION

- Install on a level, rigid, well-drained joist system of durability, if wood, tapping the top of the joints with joist decking tape is highly recommended.
- Joist spacing: typically, 16" on center, up to 18" allowable for 5/4 Solarwood Ash decking (Always check with local code specifications)
- Minimum clearances under deck: 2" over hard surfaces; 4" over soil/gravel.
- Gap decking from walls and away from fixed structure to allow for drainage.

3. INSTALLATION

- Use stainless steel screws only: 304 or 316 for coastal or high-moisture areas.
- Pre-drill, countersink, and do not over-drive screws.
- Keep screws a safe distance from decking board edges and ends, predrilling with same size bit as screw diameter is recommended for ends of decking.

(If using decking clips)

- Follow clip manufacturer spacing and fastening requirements exactly.
- All clips must be secured at every joist.

4. SPACING & MOVEMENT

- Maintain consistent $\frac{1}{4}$ " + gaps between boards to allow drainage and airflow
- At butt joints, a separate joist support is needed to support the ends for each board is highly recommended and to provide fastening space from the end of the decking.

5. CUTTING, END SEALING & FINISHING

- Use standard woodworking tools with sharp, quality bits and blades
- Seal all ends immediately after fresh cuts with end-grain sealer such as Anchorseal end sealer for lumber.
- If finishing, only use an oil based product, pre-finishing decking on all sides is recommended. If leaving nature to grey, an oil finish is still recommended like Cutek to provide protection. If seeking a color fast finish, using an oil finish that has UV and mold & mildew prohibitive like Cabot's Australian Timber oil products.

6. MAINTENANCE & CARE

- Keep deck surface clean and free of debris.
- Avoid pressure washing and harsh chemicals.
- If oil coatings are used, maintain by the manufacturer guidelines.