

# Installation Detail – TigerDeck

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

Tiger Deck is a beautiful decking material that when installed properly will provide a lifetime of enjoyment. It is a very dense hardwood with amazing strength and durability properties when compared to other wood and composite decking products. Tiger Deck is a natural product and though our graders and quality control people attempt to ship a 100% usable product you will see pieces on each job which will need to be trimmed (we adhere to or exceed industry standard maximum 5% off grade). Your installer will need to inspect the pieces and may need to trim out the following defects BEFORE installing the piece:

**ENDS** - each deck board has been double end trimmed to slightly more than 2ft nominal multiples (8'-20') and are end waxed. Fresh cuts should be end sealed for optimal protection.

**SHAKE** -shake is break in the fibers of the wood which occurs in the tree while it is alive. After kiln drying and processing it is sometimes difficult to see. It appears as scalloped splits along the edge of a piece or as a 'fish scale' on the face. It causes sharp edges which can give splinters when handled. Tiger Deck is otherwise very smooth and almost splinter free. Shake is the main defect to trim out.

**CROOK OR WARP** - Crook is the result of natural stresses in the wood fiber. Tiger Deck is dried to 8% moisture content. At this moisture content all the crook and warp which may have happened over time is complete. 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. It is more practical for the installer to determine the trim lengths, the longer the board the more options available.

**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**....Tiger Deck 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.

## **PATENTED FASTENING SYSTEM**

Tiger Deck provides a hidden fastening system that will virtually eliminate unsightly penetrations in the 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 7/32" by design.



## **STORAGE AND HANDLING**

Tiger Deck 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. Upon arrival to a job site, Tiger Deck should be installed as soon as possible. Prior to installation, Tiger Deck should be kept in banded packages, protected from direct sunlight and kept from direct contact with the ground. Due to the natural properties of Tiger Deck, 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.

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The 1st row of deck boards should be squared accurately to the substructure, predrilled and screwed through the face with 2 screws per joist.



Two to five rows of deck boards can then be laid out on the joists with one clip on each joist. Do NOT screw the clips down as you go. Push everything in place with hand

pressure and set up Bow Wrench (s) in preparation for squeezing the section tight. Natural bow should be placed with the belly out.



We recommend two people, one slowly tightening the Bow Wrench® while the second is standing on the deck boards making sure clips are in the grooves (a 20 penny nail, pounded into the end of a 3ft stick and clipped to a point allows person standing to adjust clips through screw hole and remain standing). Before the section is squeezed tight be sure to tap the ends of the boards with a hammer to snug the ends up tight. Look the section over one more time for defects (which may need to be trimmed out), tight butt joints, boards tight to the clip legs assuring proper spacing, straight lines and color/aesthetics. Clips can then be secured to the joists with the stainless steel screws provided. The last row of clips which are closest to the Bow Wrench should not be tighten completely, only enough to hold the last board in place while laying out the next 2 to 5 rows.



Having multiple rows ahead of the Bow Wrench® allows enough holding power on boards to resist natural bow in boards when the pressure is released to move to the next set of boards.

If there is a lot of natural bow in the last board it may be necessary to provide temporary holding power by shooting a nail or staple at an angle into the joist to hold the board until the next set of boards are placed and the Bow Wrench® is again in tension (some contractors prefer to use two Bow Wrench® tools having the next set of boards in place before releasing the first tool). Boards must be square and tight. Using Tiger Deck clips and screws will provide the proper gap and are designed to allow small amounts of wood movement yet hold tight.

### **BUTT JOINTS**

Butt joints should have 1 screw predrilled and centered as far from the end of the board as possible but still allow penetration into the joist. This should be done after the deck has been installed using the clip system.

### **FASCIA**

Fascia boards (or any other ‘face to face’ application) should be predrilled and face screwed 1” from board edge and through 1/8” or thicker lathe backing every 16” when installed against any flat surface to provide air space to back of board.

### **REPLACING DECK BOARDS**

Tiger Deck installed with our clip system is meant to last a lifetime. It is best to use care in installation so that replacement is not necessary. However; in the event a board must

be replaced use the following instructions:

Have the replacement board (s) ready. Select straight boards and cut to length. Cut the old board out by sawing through the piece on either side of the clips an inch or two away from the joist. Remove screws and clips, clean tops of joists. Replace clips on joists along one side. Slide new board into place and make sure clips are in the groove on one edge (See Illustration below).



Rotate board up on the non clip side enough to place clips in the groove and directly over the joist. Slowly drop board down until the clips are starting engage slot/joist. When all clips are aligned properly; step on the high side to force the board down and into the slot. Depending on the length of the board it may take two people to do this evenly. If you are not successful with this method you can pre drill and face screw one edge and use the clips on the other edge.

### **IMPORTANT TIPS**

NEVER install any Tiger Deck product flat against green treated wood, roofs, concrete or in any application which traps moisture behind the piece. This 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 Tiger Deck products as a system and as per our design intent. For example: Tiger Deck boards must be gapped by our clips or ¼” apart if face screwed to allow air flow. If you want a solid surface with no gaps for exterior use then purchase our Tiger Deck T&G Porch Flooring.

ALL SCREWS should be predrilled to prevent splitting (the only exceptions are the screws provided with Tiger Deck Clips when screwed into softwood joists). All screws should also be stainless steel to match the quality and longevity of Tiger Deck products. MINIMUM SPACE between product and ground or concrete is 16", installed on wooden joist material with adequate ventilation and drainage under the deck.

## **SEALER**

Tiger Deck does not require any sealer if the customer is not concerned with preserving color. Tiger Deck will go through a color transformation from its natural state to a deeper red tone and eventually silver (see photo gallery for pictures of untreated Tiger Deck). If the customer wants to preserve natural color there are many different products on the market. Our customers have had the most success with either Penofin's Exotic Hardwood Penetrating Oil ([www.penofin.com](http://www.penofin.com) or Messmer's U.V. Plus for Hardwoods ([www.messmers.com](http://www.messmers.com)) for UV protection and finishing material. Follow manufactures recommended procedure for applying and for subsequent treatment. If the customer elects to treat the decking material it should be treated on all sides and ends evenly to maintain the equal moisture condition set by kiln drying and conditioning.

## **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

While we have not heard of any allergic reactions to Tiger Deck 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.