

Getting Started

Careful planning of the finished deck layout will result in better looking finished projects.

1. Joist location plays an important role in the safety of the deck itself but may also affect the ease, method and price of your railing system.
2. Before starting, read the instructions of both the decking and railing systems planned for the project.
3. Remember that prefabricated rail systems often assemble faster than wood railing but they are less flexible and do not assemble in the same way as wood rail systems. To enjoy the maximum benefit of prefabricated rail systems, it is important to construct the deck framing with the specific rail system in mind.
4. Thoroughly reading all instructions first will make for more profitable projects. Failure to do so may result in more difficult installation and may void warranty.

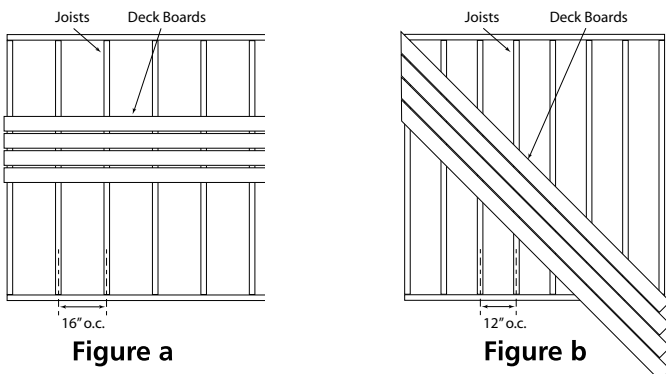
Joists

Structural joists should be spaced no more than 16" on center for most residential applications (Figure a). For best results, double-joist any end-to-end seam. If applying deck boards diagonally across joists, the joist spacing should be 12" on center for residential (Figure b). Your local building codes should always be consulted. Veranda TD Decking is intended for deck surface only, not for structural members.

When using Veranda Decking as Stair Treads, follow local inspector approved building codes, particularly as they pertain to sub-structure of staircase. Follow building code for allowable rise, run, bull-nose, landings and overhang. Stair stringers should not exceed 9" on center. After securing the rise, the deck board shall have a 3/16" space from the rise. Between stair treads, also leave 3/16" space.

When installing heavy loads atop your decking project, a hot tub, for example, it is important to also understand the requirements of the manufacturer as they may have specific framing and support requirements for their warranty coverage.

Residential Joist Spacing



When installing blocking for more intricate decking patterns, remember that solid blocking (blocking laid on the flat) will inhibit water flow and result in buildup of organic materials over time, which will make cleaning more difficult. For best results when blocking is required, it should be installed ladder style (Figure c).

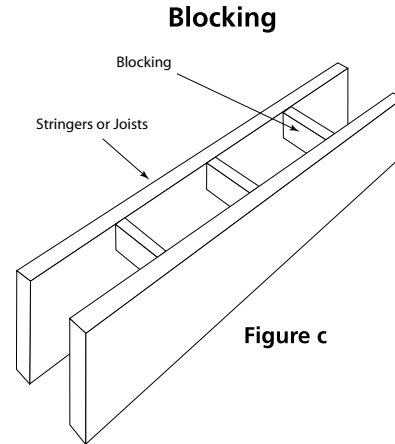


Figure c

Board Spacing

All decking materials, whether wood, composite or metal, undergo some degree of linear expansion with the changes of weather and the season. To compensate for the effects of contraction and expansion, the following installation standards must be maintained:

- 3/16" side to side spacing between the boards (Figure d)
- 1/4" gap between the deck board and any solid structure such as a wall or post (Figure d)
- Between board ends: 1/8" (Figure e)

Adhering to these spacing parameters will:

- Promote proper drainage and ventilation
- Aid in the removal of organic debris
- Meet board spacing requirements for Veranda warranty coverage

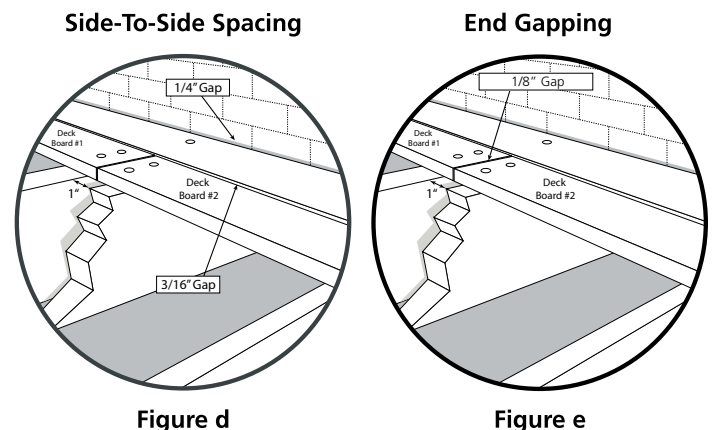


Figure d

Figure e

Surface Fasteners

Use Veranda ArmorGuard™ Fasteners, Stainless Steel Deck Screws or approved coated fasteners to prevent possible discoloration of decking. Galvanized surface fasteners should not be used. Pre-drilling is recommended. Screw heads must be flush with board surface. Caution must be used to avoid over-tightening fasteners. Excess tightening may cause immediate or eventual cracking of the board end.

Requirements

Do not surface fasten within 1-1/2" of the end of a board or 1" from the side of the board. It is necessary to pre-drill end of board screw holes to prevent immediate or eventual end splitting (Figure f). Pre-drilling all holes, which will add time to the project, is not necessary, but it will result in better looking finished projects. DO NOT over-tighten fasteners. Over tightening will induce cracking at board ends.

Fastener Setback

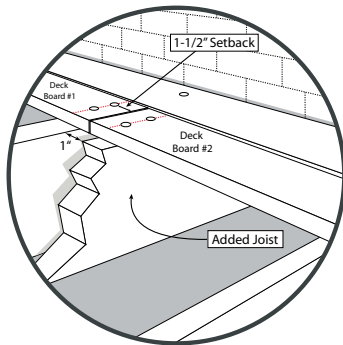


Figure f

Surface Fasteners should always be driven in at a 90 degree angle to the decking surface. Toe nailing/screwing is not recommended (Figure g). Instead, the placement of an additional joist, when needed, is recommended to allow perpendicular installation of surface fasteners at end-to-end seams (Figure h). Pre-drilling is required in cold temperatures.

Do Not Toe-Nail

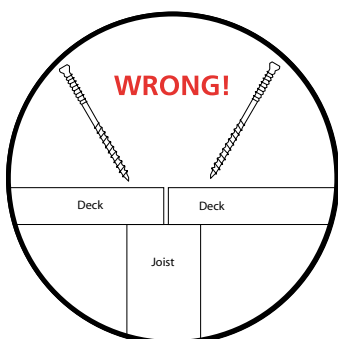


Figure g

Proper Installation

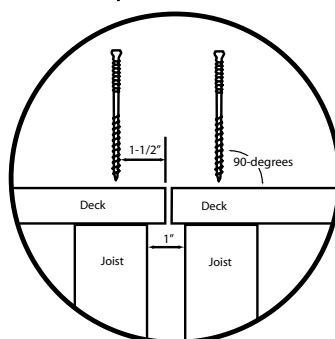


Figure h

Fastening Boards

Veranda decking requires two fasteners at every joist location (Figure i). While face fastening is allowed on all Veranda decking products, the use of hidden fasteners is highly recommended with Veranda grooved decking to create a smooth, unblemished, decking surface.



Figure i

End-to-end Fastening

Fastening at end-to-end seams requires special attention. To avoid fastening within 1-1/2" of board end, a joist must be added 1" away from the existing joist. Fasten first board end to existing joist and second board end to added joist (see full installation instructions on website). Repeat pattern across the installation.

Clean, perfectly straight lines of fasteners look better than wobbly lines. Use white chalk, straight boards or string lines as templates for straight lines. Colored chalk is designed to be permanent and will stain the decking surface. There is no known way to remove colored chalk from decking. All brands of Veranda decking may be face fastened. Annual thread, ring shank and spiral shank nails, of sufficient length, have excellent holding power and produce good results. Gun nails may be used but, depending on the gun, the temperature of the decking and other factors such as head type, head size and shank nail geometry, guns may not produce optimal results. Test first.

Screws have superior holding power. Conventional bugle head decking screws produce solid connections but have a tendency to cause mushrooming.

For a cleaner look, stainless steel composite screws are recommended. These screws are engineered specifically to work with composite decking and prevent mushrooming, resulting in better looking finished projects (Figure i).

Fascia Installation

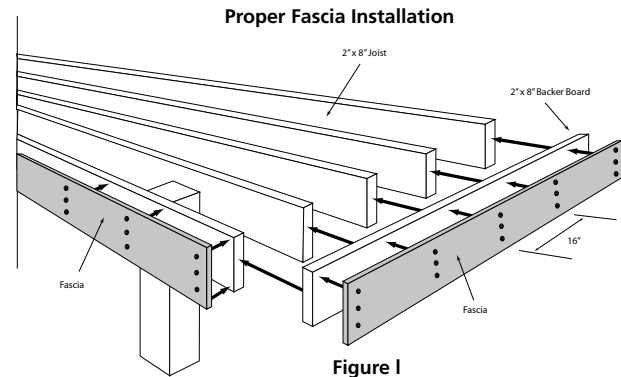
Fascia is intended as a non-structural covering for rim joists, risers and stringers. Screws should be installed at a maximum 16" interval, with three screws across the face (Figure I). Do not over-tighten screws as buckling may result. Install with 1/8" spacing between the edges and ends.

Static

Dry and windy environments may create a temporary condition of static electricity, which will vary depending on climate and age of deck.

Ventilation

Do not install decking directly to a solid surface. Make sure there is adequate and unobstructed air flow under the deck to prevent excessive water absorption. Improve drainage or grade flat areas where standing water may gather. A minimum of 6" of continuous net free area between underside of joists/fascia and grade is required for adequate ventilation on all decking applications. Install porch and deck material so air can circulate between adjacent members to promote drainage, drying and cooling of the decking material.



Veranda TD Decking Care and Maintenance

Important Considerations

- Improve drainage or grade soil to eliminate standing water under decks.
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions and splash guards away from decks.
- Position dryer vents away from decks.
- Clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year.
- Pressure washing is not recommended on the deck.
- Keep debris out of gaps between the decking boards so rain showers can remove pollen and organic debris between cleanings.
- Items stored directly on top of the deck surface, such as flower pots, prohibit water evaporation and will cause some staining of the deck surface.
- Use of wrought iron railing or other carbon steel materials in contact with or above an uncapped composite deck surface may cause staining.

Clean Your Deck

Clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year to remove pollen, organic debris, dirt or stains. Generally, a broom or a blower will work better than a hose for removing scattered organic materials like leaves. For general cleaning, use soap and water or mild household cleaners.

Mold and Mildew

To minimize mold on your decking, clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year. Climate conditions vary in different regions of the country and may necessitate more periodic cleaning. Removal of leaves, debris, and other organic materials that provide a food source for mold development is important. If mold is present on your deck, there are many commercial products available for cleaning mold. We recommend the following commercial cleaners. For best results, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and use cleaners within their stated shelf life. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur. Never mix bleach and acids.

- Composite Deck Cleaner & Enhancer by Expert Chemical Company is a heavy duty, mildly alkaline chlorinated mold and mildew remover/cleaner.
- 30 Seconds® Outdoor Cleaner by Collier Manufacturing, LLC is safe to use around lawn and plants when used as directed and is biodegradable once rinsed into the soil.