

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Tips to Properly Install Treated Wood

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.

- Check your local building code requirements and get a permit if required. For additional industry guidance, see www.awc.org/publications/download.php.
- Separate deck boards to allow for expansion and contraction. If heavy and wet, separate boards no more than 1/16" as some shrinkage will occur. If light and dry, separate boards about 1/8" to allow for swelling.
- Shorter spans between joists will help to minimize warping and twisting of deck boards as they dry.
- Avoid designs with long cantilevers unsecured at one end; check with your local building department on maximum cantilever permitted.
- 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.
- Place boards bark side up to help shed water. They will also be more likely to have treated sapwood on the exposed face.
- Make sure there is good under-deck ventilation for above-ground treated wood, allowing airflow around the entire deck.
- All material treated for above-ground use must be off the ground where it can dry easily and be free of leaves or other debris. If not, use wood treated to Ground Contact.
- All joists and beams must be treated to at least Ground Contact.
- Proper flashing or spacers should be used between all adjacent structures and the deck.
- If a board is bowed, install it with the crown up. Gravity and the weight of people and furniture will flatten it. Or, if a board has a slight bend to it, it sometimes can be straightened as it is screwed or nailed in place.

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