



Perennial Wood™ 1" × 4"  
Decking Installation Guide

# Perennial Wood™ 1" × 4" Decking Quick Start Guide

Perennial Wood™ 1" × 4" decking is made from Southern pine and retains the character and workability of real wood because it is—real wood made to endure. This Quick Start Guide covers the unique requirements for installing Perennial Wood 1" × 4" decking. Read this complete installation guide for more detailed information.

For substructure recommendations, refer to the "Design for Code Acceptance 6" (DCA-6).

## Storage and Preparation

- Store Perennial Wood deck boards in the factory packaging, a protected dry place until use.
- Never allow Perennial Wood to be dumped off a vehicle.
- Elevate the wood above ground level and cover with plastic to protect against mud and debris prior to and during construction.
- Exercise care when off-loading from a vehicle to prevent excessive bending and falling impact.

## Tools and Fasteners

- Perennial Wood requires no specialized equipment and can be installed using standard carpentry tools.
- Fasteners must be STAINLESS STEEL. Fasteners used in coastal regions must be 304 or 316 stainless steel.
  - Through-face fastening with stainless steel wood screws (e.g., Simpson Strong-Tie #8×2½" trim head wood screws)

## Installation Guidelines

- Always follow safe construction practices and local building codes.
- Perennial Wood 1" × 4" decking is suitable for joist spacing up to 16" on center for boards installed at a 90 degree angle to the joists.
- Leave a minimum ⅜" gap between each board.
- When using stainless steel wood screws, PREDRILL AND COUNTERSINK PILOT HOLES through the deck board with an appropriate diameter bit, approximately 1" from edge of the board and at least ⅜" from either end of the board to reduce the risk of splitting.

## End Cuts and Touch-ups

- Ensure all exposed ends of boards are coated with Perennial Wood Deck Finish to manage water absorption through the ends of the boards.
- Use Perennial Wood Deck Finish to touch up or recoat boards as needed.

# Perennial Wood™ 1" × 4" Decking Detailed Installation Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of Perennial Wood decking. This detailed guide provides you with step-by-step installation instructions. This document is very important and should be followed closely during installation. Keep a copy for your records. As you enjoy your Perennial Wood decking, always abide by the care and safety precautions in this document.

## Glossary

**Countersinking**—Enlarging the rim of a predrilled hole so that a screw can be inserted flush with the surface, helping to reduce end splits and leaving a cleaner appearance.

**End-butted**—The joint created when two deck boards are placed end-to-end.

**Flashing**—Thin metal, plastic sheeting, or strips used to channel precipitation away from interior components of a structure at angular transition points such as wall-to-deck ledger board.

**Joist**—A horizontal structural support on which deck boards rest and are directly attached.

**Ledger board**—A horizontal deck structural board that is attached directly to an existing structure.

**Pilot holes**—Holes drilled specifically to guide the insertion path of a screw, nail, or possibly a larger drill bit.

**Starting board**—The first deck board attached to the substructure during the installation process.

**Through-face fasteners**—Wood screws that are installed in the exposed face of deck boards that typically leave visible fastener heads and associated holes in the finished work.

## Important Safety Precautions

Read and follow all safety precautions and information for specific installation details and requirements prior to installing Perennial Wood decking. Failure to do so may result in injury or death.

**⚠ WARNING** Perennial Wood decking is not rated for ground or concrete contact. Direct contact of this product with the ground or concrete may lead to structural damage of this product. To reduce the risk of serious injury or death from collapse hazard, Perennial Wood decking should be installed only on a substructure rated for direct contact with the ground.

**NOTICE** Fasteners and connectors made with corrodible metals may deteriorate over time and diminish the structural integrity of Perennial Wood decking.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Perennial Wood is available at [PerennialWood.com](http://PerennialWood.com).

## Tools

Perennial Wood requires no specialized equipment and can be installed using standard carpentry tools.

## Storage and Handling (before and during construction)

**⚠ WARNING** To reduce the risk of trip/fall hazards and/or serious injury or death:

- Exercise caution when lifting and bending during loading/unloading to help avoid injury from strain and/or falling.
- Always operate forklifts, cranes, and other special handling equipment in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Exercise care when off-loading from a vehicle to prevent excessive bending and falling impact.

## Information for Building Officials

Jurisdiction building officials may consult ICC Evaluation Services report number ESR-1690 for additional information on Perennial Wood products at [www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org).

## Decking Substructure and Joist Spacing

Perennial Wood™ substructure recommendations follow the “Design for Code Acceptance 6” (DCA-6).

Perennial Wood decking designs should be prepared or approved by a structural engineer or architect and must meet the requirements of your local jurisdiction’s building codes. Always obtain required permits prior to construction. Structural support requirements are the same when constructing a new deck or resurfacing an existing structure with Perennial Wood decking. The substructure must be constructed to adequately support the required loads.

Perennial Wood decking is approved for above ground use only.

Perennial Wood 1" × 4" decking is suitable for joist spacing up to 16" on center for boards installed at a 90 degree angle to the joists.

If boards are installed at a 45 degree angle to the joists, it is recommended that 12" joist spacing be used. Deck boards placed at an angle of 45 degrees to the joists must be supported by a minimum of four joists and be connected to each joist with two stainless steel through-face fasteners.

## Moisture Content and Movement

TruLast™ Technology makes Perennial Wood three times more resistant to shrinking and swelling than unmodified wood but—as with any wood product—Perennial Wood deck boards will exhibit some movement when exposed to substantial amounts of water.

## Attachment of 1" × 4"

### Deck Boards and Fasteners

**⚠️ WARNING** Perennial Wood is not rated for ground contact. Direct contact of this product with the ground or concrete may lead to structural damage of this product. To reduce the risk of serious injury or death from a collapse hazard, Perennial Wood decking should be installed only on a substructure rated for direct contact with the ground.

**NOTICE** Fasteners and connectors made with corrodible metals may deteriorate over time and diminish the structural integrity of Perennial Wood decking.

To maximize the integrity, appearance, and performance of the decking, use the correct stainless steel fasteners. Properly attach the deck boards to the substructure joists. The end of each board must be adequately supported by a joist.

For best appearance and deck strength, end-butteted joints should be staggered to prevent direct alignment of the ends.

**Note:** Blocking may be required at end-butteted joints to ensure both boards are fastened properly.

Fasteners used in coastal regions must be 304 or 316 stainless steel.

## Step-by-Step Installation Guide

**NOTICE** Predrill and countersink pilot holes for all screws to prevent splitting and cracking. All screws must be stainless steel.

### Step 1

Attach the starting deck board to the joist by installing a #10×3" stainless steel deck screw (predrill and countersink pilot holes through the deck board with a 5/32" diameter bit) 1" from the outside edge. Install the screws every 6" along the length of the deck board into the joist.

**Note:** When attaching end-butteted joints, screws will be 3/8" from end of joint.

### Step 2

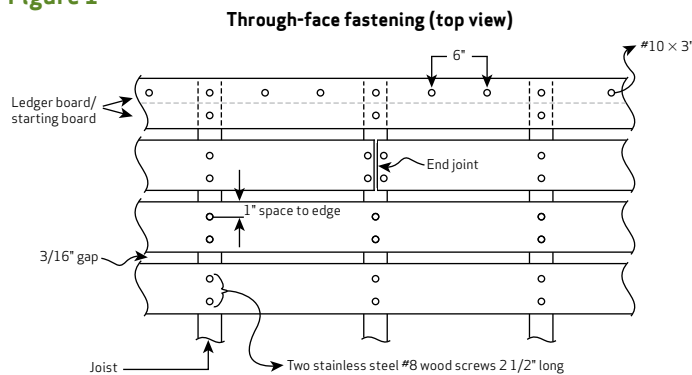
To attach the other side of the deck board, insert a #8×2 1/2" stainless steel deck screw (pre-drill and countersink pilot holes through the deck board with a 1/8" diameter bit) 1" from the edge and into each joist. (See Figure 1.)

### Step 3

Attach additional deck boards by inserting two #8×2 1/2" stainless steel deck screws (pre-drill and countersink pilot holes through the deck board with a 1/8" diameter bit) per deck board 1" from each edge and into the center of the joist. (See Figure 1.)

Leave a minimum 3/16" gap between each board.

Figure 1



### Step 4

Repeat step 3 until you reach the final deck board.

### Step 5

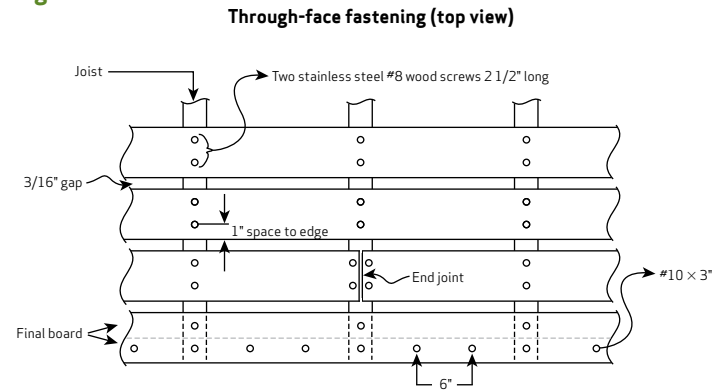
To attach the final deck board, install a #10×3" stainless steel deck screw (pre-drill and countersink pilot holes through the deck board with a 5/32" diameter bit) 1" from the outside edge and every 6" into the rim/band joist or ledger board.

**Note:** When attaching end-butted joints, screws will be 3/8" from end of joint.

### Step 6

To attach the inside of the final deck board, insert a #8×2 1/2" stainless steel deck screw (pre-drill and countersink pilot holes through the deck board with a 1/8" diameter bit) 1" from the edge and into each joist. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2



## Disclaimer

Read all safety precautions and information in this guide before beginning construction and be sure that a copy of this manual is available at each jobsite where Perennial Wood products are used. Installation of Perennial Wood must conform to the specifications provided in this manual. Perennial Wood decking should only be used for single-story, above ground decks and balconies. Perennial Wood components are not intended for use in primary structural elements of the deck such as joists, girders, columns, stair stringers, etc. All fasteners and connectors shall be stainless steel, with the exception of hidden fasteners, which may be stainless steel or plastic, to maintain resistance to corrosion.

This installation guide does not modify or otherwise enlarge the limited warranty that accompanies this Perennial Wood product. It is the builder's responsibility to inspect the Perennial Wood at the time of purchase and/or delivery. If questions arise about the suitability of this product for a project, consult a properly qualified professional such as an engineer or architect for an evaluation and recommendations.

It is recommended that the builder obtain a copy of the current Prescriptive Residential Wood Deck Construction Guide (DCA-6) published by the American Wood Council (AWC) in conjunction with the American Forest & Paper Association, Inc. It is available as a free pdf download from the AWC website at <http://www.awc.org/Publications/DCA/DCA6/DCA6-09.pdf>.

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## Contact Information

For additional information or questions, contact Perennial Wood customer service at 1-800-530-7495 or [info@PerennialWood.com](mailto:info@PerennialWood.com), or visit our website at [PerennialWood.com](http://PerennialWood.com).

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TruLast™ Technology has been developed and is backed by Eastman Chemical Company, a Fortune 500 company with more than 80 years of history in acetylating cellulose and wood fiber.

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