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Before You Build

Quick Tips

- Ensure that you read this installation guide before you start your project
- Follow proper fastening methods as per this installation guide
- Do not over torque screws
- To finish off your deck, use TruNorth Decking Fascia boards
- Deck structure must comply with your Local Building Official Code
- When designing your deck, it's important to eliminate any butt joints
- For more details about Starborn or Simpson Strong Tie products, please see their respective guides

Tools You'll Need

- Pencil
- Level
- Jigsaw
- Handsaw
- Drill (*do not use an impact drill*)
- Chalk Line
- Square
- Tape Measure
- Chop Saw/Table Saw (*optional, but recommended*)

About TruNorth Composite Decking

General Information

Composite material is **not** to be used as a structural material, therefore composite decking must be installed on a Code Compliant substructure. Check with your local building code for their requirements.

Board Profiles

TruNorth Decking comes in 3 main board profiles, as well as a fascia board profile. See Figure 1 for details.

Board Profile	Edge	Core	Primary Uses
Enviroboard	Grooved	Hollow	Main Decking
Accuspan Grooved Edge	Grooved	Solid	Main Decking
Accuspan Square Edge	Square	Solid	Borders, Stairs
Fascia	Square	Solid	Finish the Deck, Conceal Joists

Figure 1

Gapping Requirements

TruNorth® Decking grooved boards are designed to work with the Slide & Go Hidden Fastener System to allow for expansion and contraction (see Figure 2 below), therefore it is important to install the product according to the manufacturer’s recommended installation instructions. Failure to follow installation instructions will void product warranty. It is recommended to install decking when temperatures are as close to the average expected temperature as possible. Use extra caution when installing below freezing temperatures. In high temperatures, keep the decking as cool as possible during installation.

Board Gapping for Each End When Using Slide & Go Fasteners

Temperature °C / °F on Day of Installation	Warmest Annual Temperature °C / °F Expected in Region												
	°C	-6.7	-1.1	4.4	10	15.6	21.1	26.7	32.2	37.8	43.3	48.9	
	°C	°F	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
	-6.7	20	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"	3/16"	1/4"	1/4"	5/16"	5/16"
	-1.1	30		1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"	3/16"	1/4"	1/4"	5/16"
	4.4	40			1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"	3/16"	1/4"	1/4"
	10	50				1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"	3/16"	1/4"
	15.6	60					1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"	3/16"
	21.1	70						1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	3/16"
	26.7	80							1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"
	32.2	90								1/8"	1/8"	1/8"	1/8"
	37.8	100									1/8"	1/8"	1/8"
	43.3	110										1/8"	1/8"
48.9	120											1/8"	

Figure 2

Material Characteristics

TruNorth® Decking is made of primarily recycled post-consumer resin and rice hulls. Like all composites, due to the nature of the materials, the product will expand and contract to some degree with temperature variations.

Project Planning

Planning your deck project in advance will help ensure that your project goes smoothly and will minimize issues during your build.

Note: Items such as rails and other features that you plan on installing should be taken into consideration when laying out your deck project. Ensure that you have the proper substructure requirements needed for such items.

Refer to other manufacturer's recommendations for any special requirements of rail or feature products.

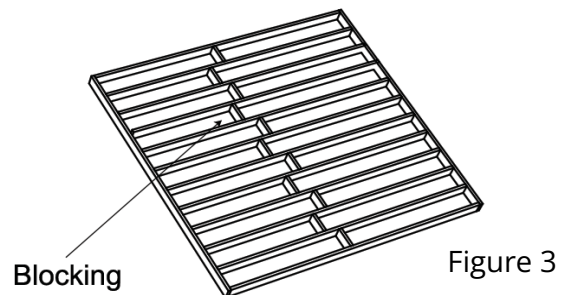
Storage and Handling

Prior to installation, allow the material to climatize itself (Ex. Lay out the boards on the deck frame overnight). Deck boards should be stored on a flat surface and covered. If the surface is not flat, the boards should be supported every 24". For example, using 2 x 4 boards.

Framing and Blocking

Ensure that your frame is square. It is recommended to block your joists to prevent warping of the substructure.

See Figure 3.



Joist Span

12" on-centre is recommended for maximum customer enjoyment in residential perpendicular applications. Residential parquet patterns and diagonal or herringbone designs all require joist spacing 12" on-centre. 16" on-centre joist spans are covered under warranty when installed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Side Gapping: 3/16"

Heat Buildup

Composite deck boards will retain some heat. Although we add heat blocking technology, the darker the board colour, the higher the heat retention. It is important to exercise caution when walking on a composite deck in hot temperatures. In some cases, footwear may be required. You may want to consider a shade structure for darker decks in full sun.

Colour Variation

Like most composite decking, TruNorth® Decking will have colour variations from piece to piece and lot to lot. Lay out the decking before cutting or fastening. Do not install if variation is not acceptable and talk to your retailer for replacements before cutting or screwing the boards down.

Installation Instructions

How to Install - Accuspan Square Edge

For best results, follow these simple installation instructions, paying close attention to gapping, spacing, and fastener requirements.

Direction of Boards

The appearance of this product changes when viewed from different ends. To achieve the most consistent appearance, install all of the boards in the same direction using the product code arrows on the side of the boards as a point of reference. Install all boards with the arrows pointing in the same direction for best looks. See Figure 4a.

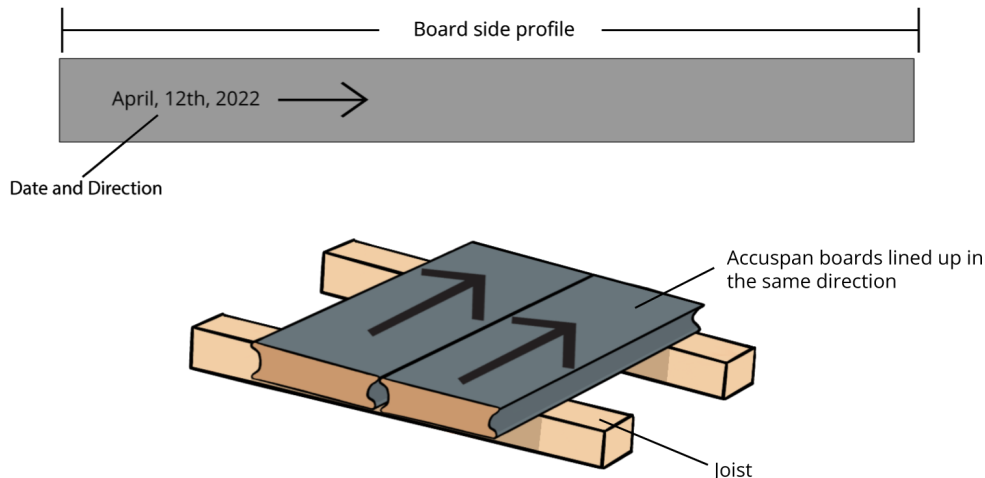


Figure 4a

Installing boards in opposing directions will create light and dark shades of the deck board colour and is not covered under warranty. Prior to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area.

Board End Gapping

Allow a minimum of 1/16" gap between board ends for every 6.6°C/10°F of difference between the temperature during installation and the hottest temperature expected (see Figure 2 on Page 3). Additional blocking may be needed for support (see Figure 3 on Page 4). Allow 1/4" spacing between all material and any permanent structure or post.

After all of the decking has been attached, snap chalk lines (white or yellow chalk recommended) flush with the deck framing, picture frame, fascia, or trim piece, and trim with a circular saw. Remember to account for expansion and contraction. See Figure 5.

Cut all at the same time

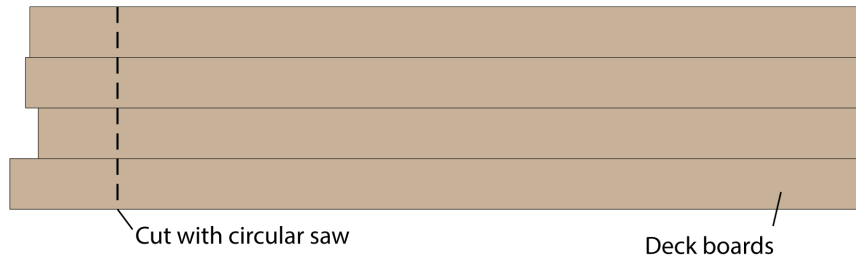


Figure 5

TruNorth® Decking, like all other wood and composite decking products, requires proper ventilation and drainage in order to ensure its longevity. When using a minimum 2 × 6 joist standing on edge and the suggested 3/16" side gap, there should be a 2" clear space between the bottom and the edge of the joist and grade to allow for proper ventilation. Adequate drainage is also needed to prevent water from pooling under the deck.

Fasteners

For ease of installation, we recommend using at least 2-1/2" corrosion-resistant, composite decking screws. These screws help minimize the common "mushroom" effect that sometimes occurs when using standard fasteners. Colour matched screws are available for all TruNorth® Decking boards. They can also reduce the amount of pre-drilling and countersinking.

If using ordinary coarse thread deck screws, always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink prior to driving screws. Screws should be driven flush with the TruNorth® Decking surface. Do *not* over-tighten. Use two fasteners per deck board at each joist.

Always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink at board ends when using either composite or wood screws. Be careful not to over tighten screws near board ends. Pre-drill and countersink all deck screws, regardless of type, that are within 1" of the end of the deck board. Screws are to be in every joist and no less than 1" from the end of the deck board, except if the board is overhanging the edge of the deck. If using the board as a picture frame, secure the board to the rim joist. When fastening boards with screws, install screws on every joist (not just the joists on each end). See Figure 6.

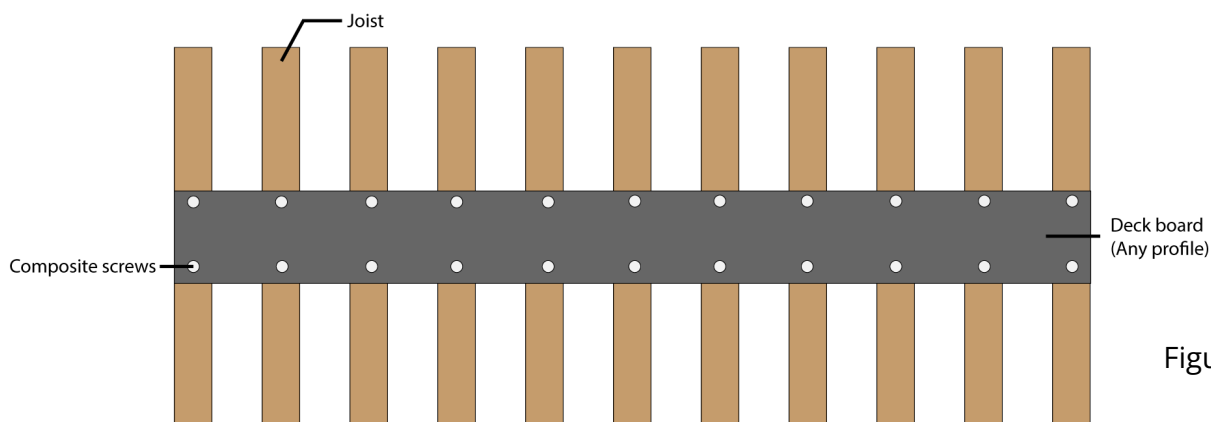


Figure 6

How to Install - Enviroboard or Accuspan Grooved Edge

Direction of Boards

The appearance of this product changes when viewed from different ends. To achieve the most consistent appearance, install all of the boards in the same direction using the product code arrows on the side of the boards as a point of reference. Install all boards with the arrows pointing in the same direction for best looks. See Figure 4b.

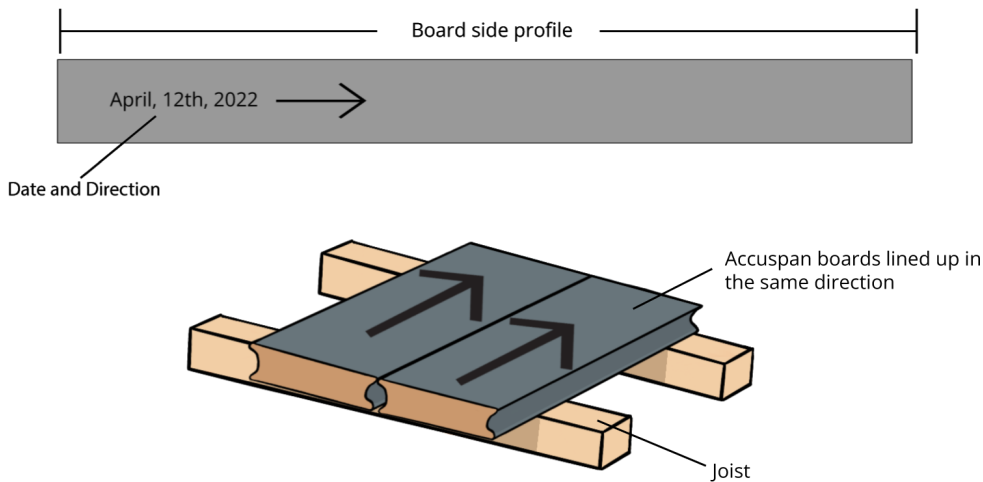


Figure 4b

Installing boards in opposing directions will create light and dark shades of the deck board colour and is not covered under warranty. Prior to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area.

TruNorth® Decking Slide & Go Hidden Fastener System

TruNorth® Decking grooved boards are designed to work with the Slide & Go Hidden Fastener System to allow for expansion and contraction, therefore it is important to install the product according to the manufacturer's recommended installation instructions. Failure to follow installation instructions will void product warranty.

Note: Enviroboard hollow profile is recommended for residential applications and, like many low maintenance deck boards, is recommended to be installed on 12" O.C. spans for maximum customer satisfaction. 16" O.C. span installation meets international building code certification CCRR-1019 and is fully covered under warranty when installed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Check with your local building code for required certifications in your area.

Slide & Go clips have a tab on the underside to allow for quick alignment with joists. Push the tab against the joist to align. Ensure that the tab is not on the outside of the joist at either end of the deck.

Installing the First Board

Note: The first board must be straight and secured.

Position the first board along the edge of the ledger board and secure to each joist with a composite deck screw, at least 2-½" long. Ensure the head of the screw is flush with the top of the deck board. Do not break through the top wall of the board. It is recommended to pre-drill the holes to prevent the composite board from cracking, and prevent the mushrooming of material at the screw head.

Position a Slide & Go clip at each joist on the grooved edge of the board and secure it loosely with a clip screw. Securing the clip loosely will allow the next board to slide under the clip smoothly. Continue positioning deck boards and securing to the joist with Slide & Go clips. After a few boards are laid down, go back and tighten the clip screws.

Note: Do not over torque.

Driver Bit

Position a Hidden Fastener clip at each joist on the grooved edge of the board and secure it loosely with a clip screw. Securing the clip loosely will allow the next board to slide under the clip smoothly. Continue positioning deck boards and securing to the joist with Slide and Go Fastener Clips. After a few boards are laid down go back and tighten the clip screws.

Clip Torquing Guidelines

Proper torquing of the fastening clips is important to ensure your deck boards will have sufficient room to expand and contract. Over-torquing will drive the clip screw into the clip and restrict deck board movement.



Figure 7

All drill torques are different, so you should determine the proper setting for your drill. Also, wood will have different densities, so you should take that into account when determining your torque setting. See Figure 7.

Butt Joints

Do **not** use butt-joints. Instead, feature boards (AKA breaker boards) should be used perpendicular to the main decking direction whenever more length than one board is required. See Figure 8.

Board End Gapping

See Board End Gapping and Figure 5 on Page 5 & 6.

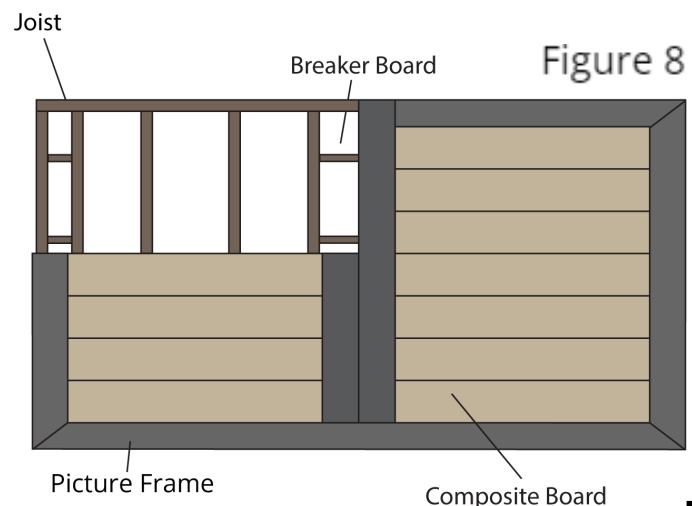


Figure 8

Finishing

Ideally the rim joist is left off until the last board is ready to be installed so the joists can be cut to use one full board. See Figure 9.

If the joists can't be sized to fit the full last board, trim any excess by ripping the length of the board and predrill the board. Secure the board to the joist by surface screwing with 2-1/2" or longer composite deck screws. This will prevent the board from sliding out of the previous clip. See Figure 10.

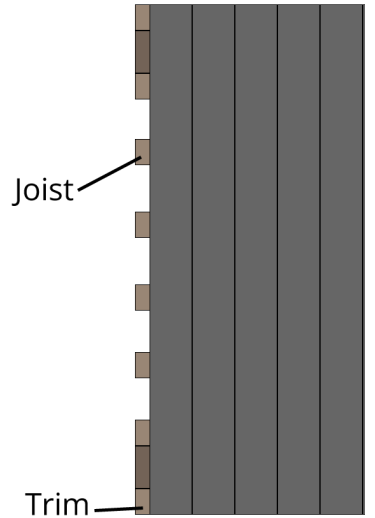


Figure 9

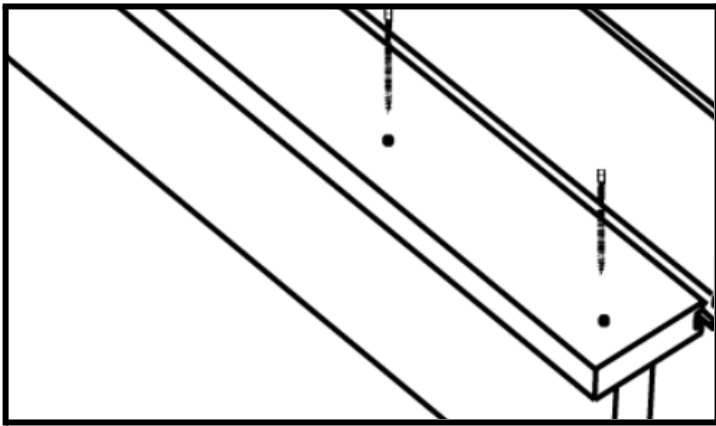


Figure 10

When installing Fascia boards, or square edge boards for the same purpose, ensure that the screws are installed in the correct locations.

See Figure 11

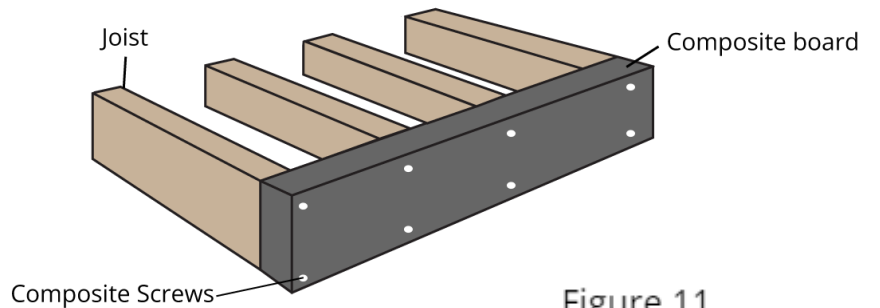
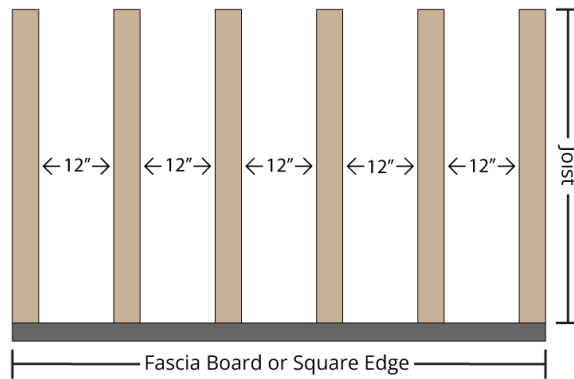


Figure 11

While square edge boards are recommended for the border of your deck, they aren't required. You can use grooved edge boards along the border of your deck and simply cover the grooves with fascia boards for a clean finished appearance. See Figure 12.

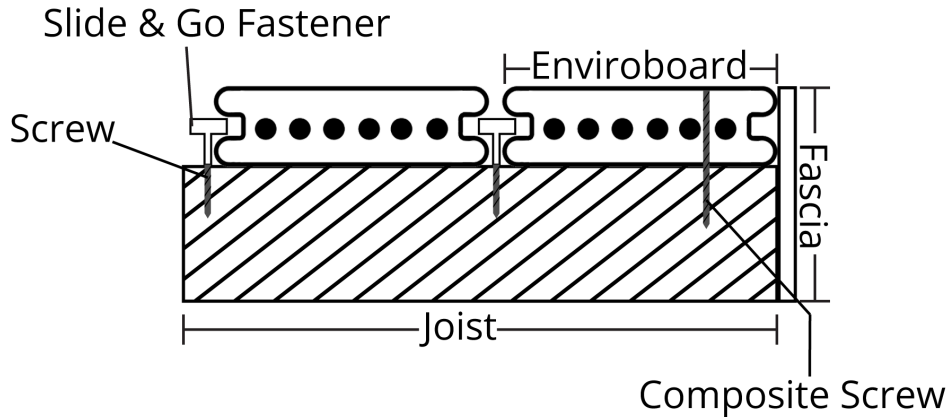


Figure 12

To cover a 12" joist, you can use a square edge board with a ripped fascia board below. Install the square edge boards at the same height as the joist (Figure 13) or the deck boards on top (Figure 12).

See Figure 13.

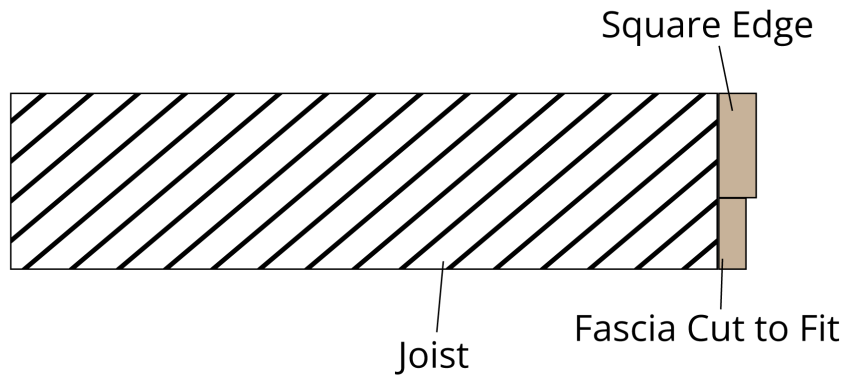


Figure 13

Taking Care of a TruNorth Deck

Preventing Mold and Mildew Growth

Mold and mildew can be a nuisance on any exterior building surface, regardless of the material. If the conditions are right, they will spawn on wood, plastic, concrete, metal, and other surfaces. Mold formation is most prevalent in consistently wet, shaded areas. Spores from the natural environment are carried by the wind and commonly land on the deck surface.

It is important to note that the appearance of mold/mildew is a function of nature, not necessarily a deficiency with any of the material on which it grows. The capping of TruNorth® Decking resists mold and mildew from growing into the core.

As with deck washes, there are several mold-inhibitor products available from paint stores, hardware stores, online outlets, and home centres to help prevent long-term mold/mildew growth. For any product selected, be certain to read, understand, and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. Depending on the environmental factors affecting your deck, some preventive cleaning products may be more effective than others. It may be necessary to try more than one product. For ongoing preventive maintenance, follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

Cleaning

Periodic washing with soap/detergent and water will help remove dirt on the surface. This will help to prevent the buildup of pollen, debris, and spores that can cause and accelerate mold/mildew growth. We recommend giving your TruNorth deck a wash at least 1 or 2 times each year. Spills should be cleaned as quickly as possible to prevent staining.

CAUTION: A pressure washer with a fan-tipped nozzle should be used to *lightly* wet or rinse the composite deck surface.

There are many deck wash and exterior cleaning products available at retail. It is important to make sure you use a cleaner specifically intended for your application. After selecting a product, be certain to read, understand, and follow all instructions supplied by the manufacturer. Some cleaning products and inhibitors may be more effective than others, depending on the environmental conditions your deck is subjected to. Additionally, it is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area before applying it to the entire deck.

TruNorth® Decking is not suitable for structural use. It should not be used for primary load-bearing members such as posts, joists, beams, or stringers. The same common-sense precautions should be taken when handling TruNorth® Decking as with wood or other building materials. Dust masks and eye protection devices are recommended to avoid possible irritation from sawdust and chips. Gloves will help to protect the hands. Hands should be washed after doing construction work.

The diagrams and instructions shown here are for illustration purposes only and are not meant to replace a licensed professional. Any construction or use of the product must be in accordance with all local zoning and/or build codes. The consumer assumes all risks and liability associated with the construction or use of this product. The consumer or contractor should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project, including, but not limited to, wearing the appropriate safety equipment. EXCEPT AS CONTAINED IN THE WRITTEN LIMITED WARRANTY, THE WARRANTOR DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES, INCLUDING CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. 2021 TruNorth® Composites All rights reserved. TruNorth® Decking is registered trademark of 2021 TruNorth® Composites Ltd.

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