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# TruNorth Deck Installation Guide

# BEFORE YOU BUILD

## QUICK TIPS:

1. Deck structure must comply with your Local Building Official Code
2. When designing your deck, it's important to **eliminate any butt joints (Butt joints will void warranty)**
3. Do not over torque screws, use a drill rather than impact driver.
4. For more details about Starborn or Simpson Strong Tie products, please see their respective guides
5. Colour may vary between boards and batches. Lay out boards before cutting or fastening. If variation is unacceptable, contact your retailer for replacements before installation.
6. Composite boards retain heat, especially darker colours. Use caution in hot weather—footwear may be needed.

### SAFETY:

We also recommend always wear safety glasses, protective gloves and certified ear protection when handling, cutting, drilling and fastening materials.



Safety  
Gloves



Ear  
Protection



Safety  
Glasses

## TOOLS YOU NEED:



Driver Bits



Level



Angle  
Square



Measuring Tape



Chalk  
Line



Marker or chalk



Rubber Mallet



Drill  
(do not use  
impact drill)



Hand Saw



Jig saw



Saw



(It's recommended to use a metal cutting blade for the aluminium, and an 80 tooth or greater)

### STORAGE & HANDLING:

Prior to installation, allow the material to climatize itself (Ex. Lay out the boards 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" (610 mm) to prevent warping/sagging.

**Note:** Composite material is not to be used as a structural material, therefore composite decking must be installed on a Code Compliant substructure.

# ABOUT TRUNORTH COMPOSITES

## QUICK TIPS:

### DO NOT USE YOUR DECK AS A WORK BENCH.

It's important to keep your deck free of excess dirt, dust, debris, paver, and other building materials during construction. Using your deck as a storage place for building materials risks permanent damage from sharp objects or accidental strikes.

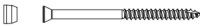
For decking **purchased before February 1, 2017**, please email [sales@trunorthdeck.com](mailto:sales@trunorthdeck.com) for advice about cleaning your deck.

## FASTENERS & BOARD PROFILES:



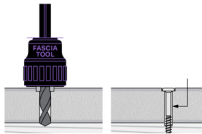
### Face Screw:

#7 stainless steel trimhead screws or colour match composite decking screws  
**NOTE: if installing Elevate boards, do not countersink face screws; they should remain flush with the board surface.**



### Face Screw with Plug:

Fasteners with colour match plugs to conceal countersunk face screws; requires custom bits  
**NOTE: plug systems are not compatible with the board surface.**



### Starborn Fascia Tool:

Fascia installation is easy. Just pre-drill with the fascia tool and then drive the fascia screw, leaving space for expansion and contraction.

### Colour Matched Plug System:



### Slide & Go Clips:







### Gen II dual finish board



### CAMO® Fasteners



Deck Clips provide superior holding power with a custom design that fits securely into the grooved profile of a TruNorth deck board.

	BOARD PROFILE	EDGE	CORE	PRIMARY USES
	Enviroboard	Grooved	Hallow	Main Decking
	Accuspan Grooved Edge	Grooved	Solid	Main Decking
	Accuspan Square Edge	Square	Solid	Borders, Stairs
	Fascia	Square	Solid	Finish the Deck, Conceal Joists

## BOARD DIRECTION:



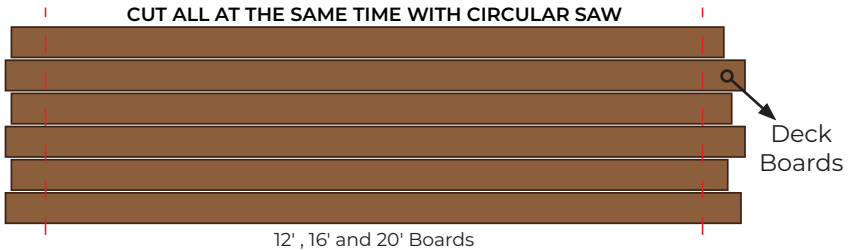
Date and Direction

The appearance of this product changes when viewed from different ends. To achieve the most consistent appearance, install all the boards in the same direction using the product code arrows on the side of the boards as a point of reference.

## QUICK TIPS:

### PLEASE DO NOT FORGET

The boards are not cut into perfect squares during the initial machining process, a small amount of extra material is added to each one. All the boards need to be laid out together and then trimmed simultaneously under consistent cutting conditions, ensuring precise alignment, uniform sizing, and optimal results.



## GAPPING REQUIREMENTS:

TruNorth® Decking grooved boards are designed to work with the Slide & Go Hidden Fastener System to allow for expansion and contraction (see Table 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. It's important to ensure all boards are the same temperature when cutting to maintain even spacing.

## 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"	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"	

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.



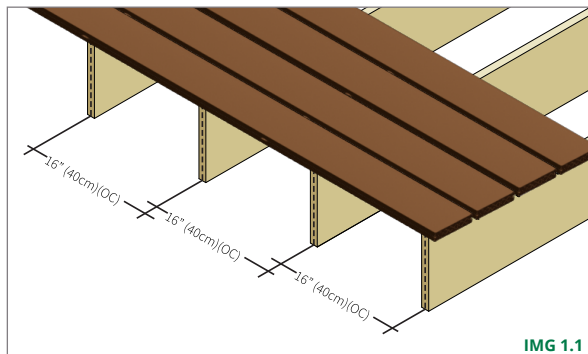
# INSPIRATION BEFORE YOU START

FROM SMALL AREA TO BACKYARD OASIS..

**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.



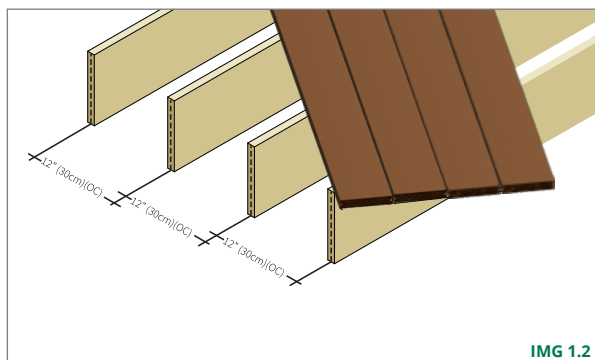
# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



## 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"

**Note:** Starting outside towards inside adding the boards recommended. Always make sure your first board is levelled and secured properly.



## 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 the chart on Page 4). Additional blocking may be needed for support. 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 2.3 on page 6).

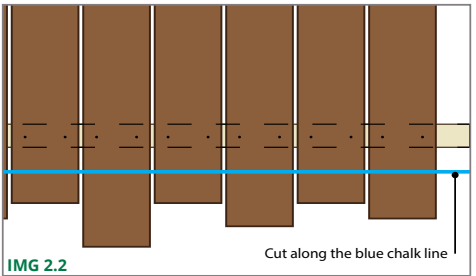
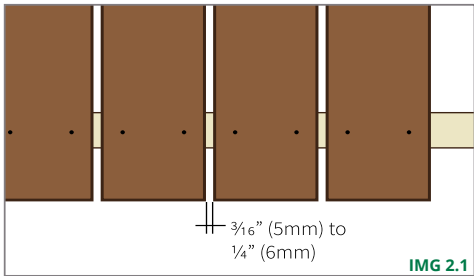
TruNorth® Composite Decking, like all other wood and composite decking products, requires proper ventilation and drainage in order to ensure its longevity. When using a minimum 2 × 6 joist standing on edge and the suggested 3/16" side gap (see 2.1 on page 6), there should be a 2" clear space between 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.

## QUICK TIPS:

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

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

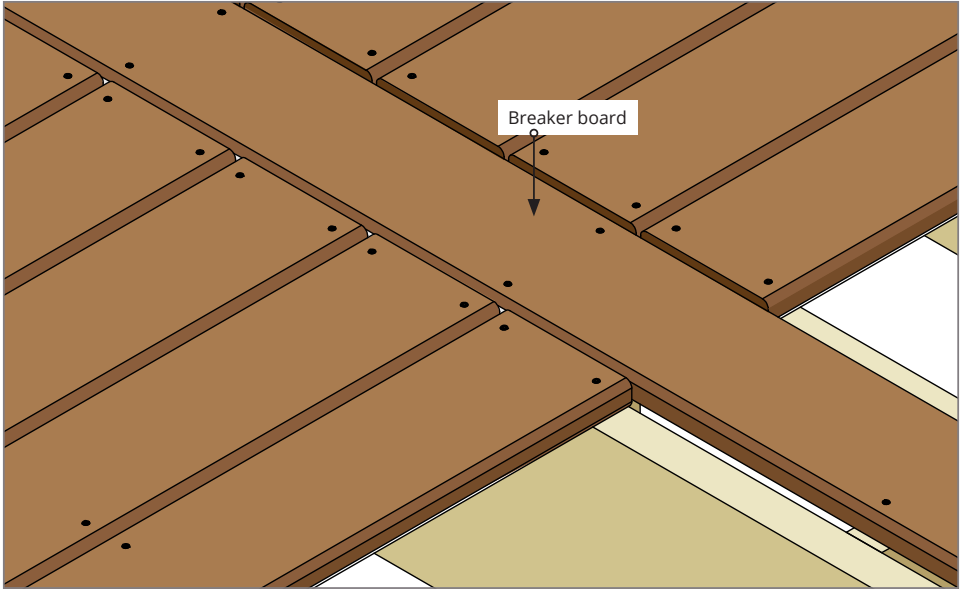
**IMPORTANT: DO NOT USE BUTT JOINTS WHEN CONSTRUCTING A DECK.**



Install deck boards with two fasteners per board per joist. Be sure to center the screws to the joist.

Once all boards are in place, snap a blue chalk line across the ends of the boards to the desired overhang. Leave at least  $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm) overhang to conceal rim joist imperfections

## BREAKER BOARDS (FEATURE BOARD)



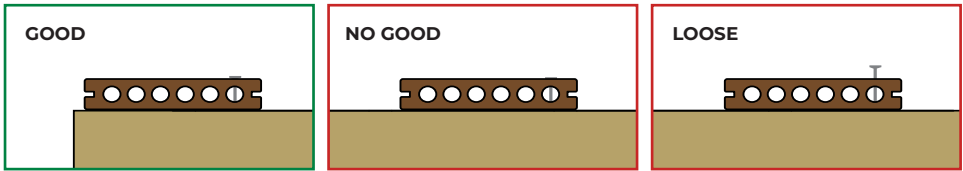
To achieve a distinctive design, incorporate a feature board to create defined spaces within the decking surface or to avoid staggered butt joints. Position joists to support fasteners at the ends of the boards adjoining the feature board. Utilize spacers to maintain a uniform gap between the edges of the feature board and the ends of the adjoining boards, ensuring proper expansion and contraction.

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

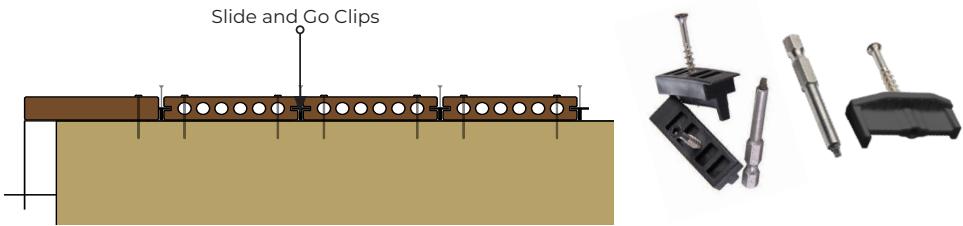
## FASTENERS:

**Note:** Do not break through the top wall of the board. It is recommended taper-drill the holes to prevent the composite board from cracking, and prevent the mushrooming of material at the screw head.

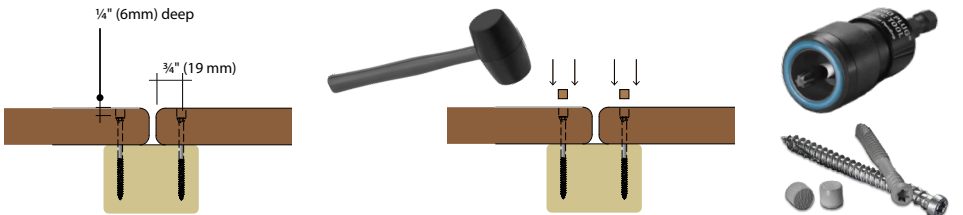
Place a Hidden Fastener clip at each joist on the grooved edge of the board and loosely secure it with a screw. This allows the next board to slide under smoothly. Continue positioning deck boards and securing them with Slide and Go Fastener Clips. Once a few boards are laid, go back and tighten the 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.



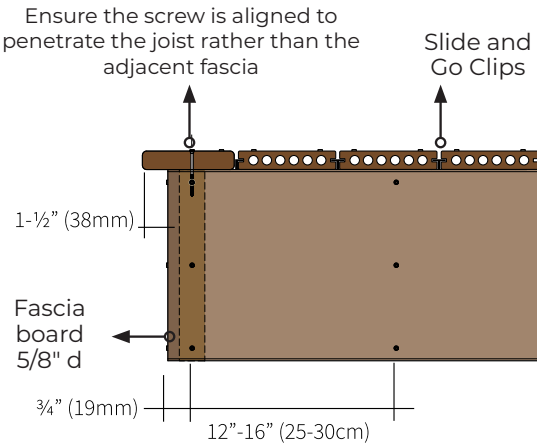
After you drill the screws with Pro-Plug PVC Tool. With your thumb, gently press the displaced decking material into the screw hole. Use a rubber mallet to tap and compress the material into the hole. Vantage will self-heal when exposed to sunlight.



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## FINISHING:

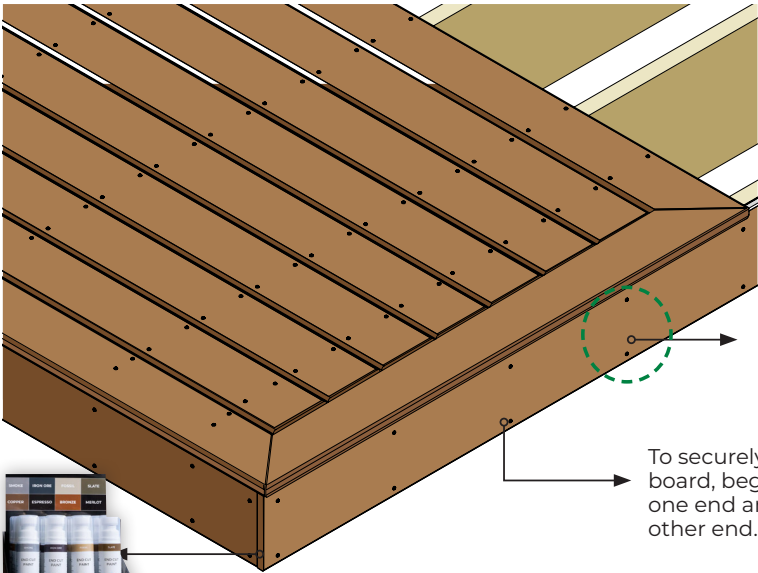
**Note:** When installing Fascia boards, or square edge boards for the same purpose, ensure that the screws are installed in the correct locations.



- If the joists can't be sized to fit the full last board, trim any excess by ripping the length of the board and pre-drill the board. Secure the board to the joist by surface screwing with 2-½" or longer composite deck screws. This will prevent the board from sliding out of the previous clip.

### QUICK TIPS:

When installing multiple sections of decking divided by a breaker board in the middle, build both sections of decking at the same time. Do not install one section at a time. The boards may not line up on each side due to slight variations in the widths of each board.



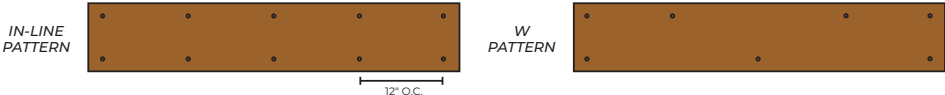
Two (2) screws into the rim joist vertically

To securely attach the fascia board, begin fastening it at one end and proceed to the other end.



End cut paint pen is available to finish the end sides.

Screw every 12" top & bottom In-Line or W Pattern



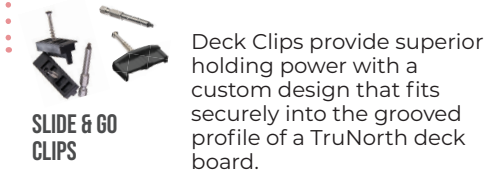
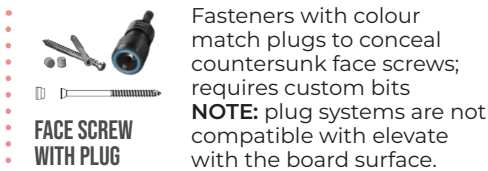
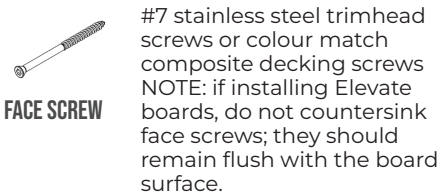
# STAIRS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



## TOOLS YOU NEED:



## FASTENERS & BOARD PROFILES:



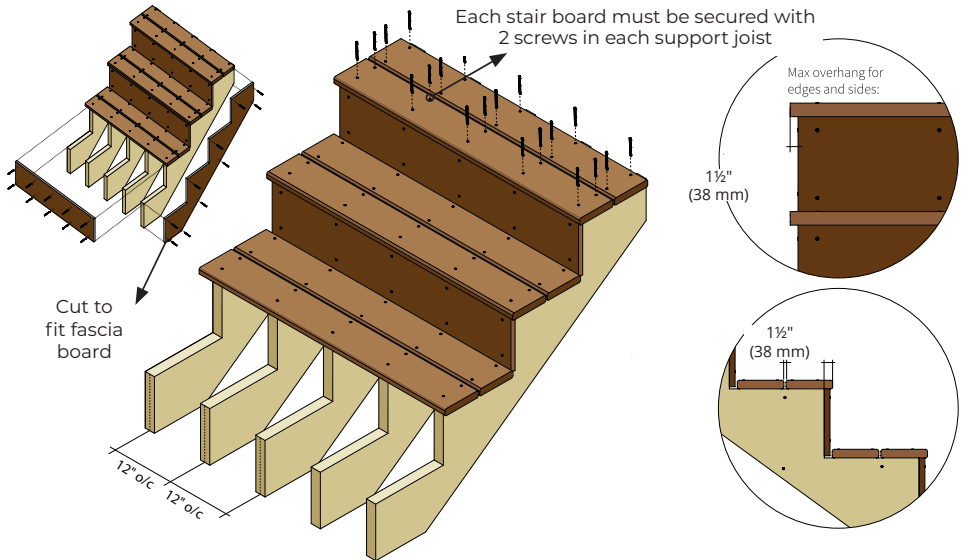
**Note:** Composite material is not to be used as a structural material, therefore composite decking must be installed on a Code Compliant substructure.

# STAIRS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## JOIST SPAN FOR STAIRS

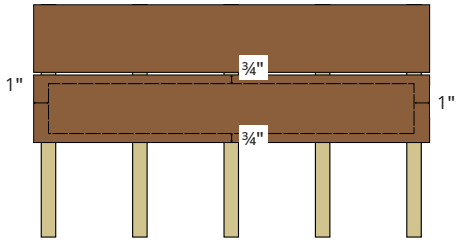
Stair joist support must be installed at a maximum 12" on center. Use the square edge solid boards instead. Tread board must be cut 3" longer than the substructure to allow 1½" overhang from each side, this will enable to use the 8" fascia boards to finish the sides. Place 2 boards on the tread. Place the front stair board so that there is 1½" overhang and a small gap in between each board. Stair boards are fastened directly to the structure. Boards need to be pre-drilled with 3/16" drill bit and secured using #8 approved deck screws (2½" length)

**Note:** Never use fascia as a walking surface, fascia boards are not designed to support required loads for a deck surface.



### QUICK TIPS:

- For best results, follow these simple installation instructions, paying close attention to gapping, spacing, and fastener requirements.
- When tightening the screws be careful not to over tighten if the head of the screw goes below the surface it may cause secondary mushrooming of the board.



Fastening locations must not be closer ¾" from the edge and 1" from the end of the board

**IMPORTANT: THE RAILING POST MUST BE SAFELY SECURED TO A SQUARE-EDGED BOARD. DO NOT USE GROOVED BOARDS FOR SECURING THE RAILING POST. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CONSULT YOUR LOCAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR ANY SPECIFIC GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS BEFORE COMMENCING ANY RAILING INSTALLATION PROJECT.**

# CARE INSTRUCTIONS

## WHAT YOU NEED:



**Note:** If you are planning to use powerwash; 1100 PSI at 10" above the deck surface, using a fan tip nozzle to avoid damaging the capping on the boards.

## MAINTENANCE TIPS:

- Keep the deck dry and clean.
- Clear debris from gaps between boards.
- Avoid placing wet mulch against the deck.
- Raise items like flower pots to allow airflow and prevent staining.
- Don't use rubber or vinyl products on Clubhouse PVC Decking to avoid discolouration.
- Clean spills immediately to prevent stains.
- Avoid spraying insect repellent or sunscreen on the deck.
- Use non-abrasive cleaners and test them in a small area first.
- Place heat sources on non-rubber/non-vinyl mats and keep them away from railings.

## APPROVED CLEANING PRODUCTS:

- DAWN® (good for grease spots)
- FANTASTIK®
- MURPHY OIL SOAP®
- LESTOIL®
- WINDEX®
- LYSOL®
- SIMPLE GREEN

## POWER WASH

- A power washer may be used to clean your deck; but **must be done with extreme care.**
- Use dish soap detergent with the power wash
- You must use a fan tip nozzle
- Wash in the direction of the grain pattern to avoid possible damage to the boards
- Use pressures less than 1,100 PSI at 10" above the deck surface

## POOLS & OTHER BODIES OF WATER

- Chlorinated water from pools and spas will not harm TruNorth or Clubhouse boards.
- Our decking were designed to withstand marine/seaside environments. They are perfect for decks, boat slips, and beach house decks.

## SNOW:

- Use a leaf blower for light snow.
- For heavy snow, use a plastic shovel.
- Avoid metal shovels or sharp tools.
- Shovel parallel to the deck boards to prevent scratches.
- Don't use sand; use calcium chloride or magnesium chloride-based ice melt or rock salt. Rinse off any residue with water or mild soap.
- Remove salt quickly to avoid stains.
- Avoid ice melt with colourants to prevent staining.
- Sweep up granular pieces and remove any build-up with water and a non-metal brush.

## WASHING:

- Wash your deck with soap and water as often as needed, at least twice each year
- If soap and water isn't sufficient, an all-purpose cleaner can usually cut through the grease and grime



## MOLD & MILDEW:

- Mold, mildew, and fungi can grow on most surfaces, but TruNorth and Clubhouse Decking's capping prevents them from penetrating the core.
- Mildew stains can form where moisture, pollen, or dirt are present. Keeping the surface clean and dry helps prevent mildew.
- TruNorth Composite Decking has rice hulls that resist moisture and fungal decay.
- Clubhouse PVC Decking contains no organic material, making it mold-resistant.

## LOW-EMISSIVITY GLASS:

- Reflection from Low-E glass and windows can cause excessive heat build-up on decking
- When installing dark colours in hot sunny climates, it is recommended that you test samples in the area prior to installation

## THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US!

Please share your photos / videos of your TruNorth® decking projects on social media and tag us!



Scan this QR code with your device to register your warranty



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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