



# LATITUDES DECKING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Tips For Decking Installation

**The appearance of this product changes when viewed from different ends. To achieve the most consistent color, install all of the boards in the same direction using the product end tags (A) as a point of reference or install all of the boards with the arrows on the product stickers (B) pointing in the same direction. Installing boards in opposing directions will create contrasting light and dark shades of the deck board color and is not covered under warranty.** Prior

to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area. For best results, follow these simple installation instructions, paying close attention to gapping, spacing and fastener requirements. **Joist Span** – 16" on-center for residential perpendicular applications. Residential parquet patterns, diagonal or herringbone designs all require joist spacing 12" on-center. Contact Latitudes product support at 877-463-8379 for commercial applications.

**Side Gapping** – 1/4". **End-to-End Spacing** – allow a minimum of 1/16" gap between board ends for every 20°F of difference between installation temperature and the hottest temperature expected. Additional blocking may be needed for support (see Figure 1). Allow 1/4" distance between all decking material and any permanent structure or post. After all of the decking has been attached, snap a chalk line (white or yellow chalk recommended) flush with or up to 1-1/2" out from the deck framing and trim with a circular saw. Latitudes Decking, like all wood and composite decking products, requires proper ventilation and drainage in order to ensure its longevity. When using a minimum 2x6 joist standing on edge and the suggested 1/4" side gap, there should be a 2" clear space between the bottom edge of the joists and grade in order 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 2-1/2" corrosion-resistant, composite wood deck screws (i.e., TrapEase™ by OMG). These screws help prevent the common "mushroom" effect that sometimes occurs when using standard fasteners. It can also reduce the amount of pre-drilling and countersinking. If using ordinary coarse thread deck screws, the best results are achieved by pre-drilling a pilot hole and countersinking prior to driving screws. Screws should be driven flush with the Latitudes surface. Do not over drive. Use 2 fasteners per deck board at each joist. For any decking where two boards meet end-to-end over a joist, add additional blocking (see Figure 1). Always pre-drill a pilot hole at board ends when using either composite or wood screws.

### Color Variation

Like most composites, Latitudes Decking and Natural Railing will have slight color variations from piece to piece. This is due to naturally occurring variations in wood fibers and polymers. Purchasing all required decking material at one time is recommended as manufacturing runs can produce slightly different colors. Do not install if color variation is not acceptable. Latitudes will lighten somewhat over time, and color variation is not covered by the warranty. This color tone shift is dependent upon exposure to sunlight and other environmental factors and is generally completed in 60-90 days. Gray products may turn a light brown before changing to lighter gray.

### Care and Cleaning

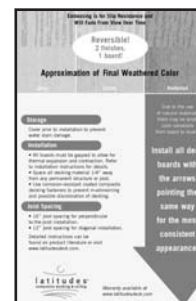
In most cases soap and water will maintain the appearance of Latitudes products. If grime, ground-in dirt, or rust marks become a problem, use a cleaning product with a phosphoric acid base. Mold may form on any surface where moisture is prevalent, where there is heavy shading, or where pollen and debris are allowed to collect. To eliminate mold, use conventional deck washers or cleaners that contain sodium percarbonate and detergent. These cleaners can be found at most home centers. Commercial pressure washers will remove ground-in dirt and mold or mildew stains. Test on

an inconspicuous area before pressure washing the entire deck. When pressure washing, be sure to use a spray nozzle and not a stream nozzle. Always pressure wash with cold water and keep the spray nozzle about 1 foot away from the deck while washing. For additional information go to [www.latitudesdeck.com](http://www.latitudesdeck.com).

an inconspicuous area before pressure washing the entire deck. When pressure washing, be sure to use a spray nozzle and not a stream nozzle. Always pressure wash with cold water and keep the spray nozzle about 1 foot away from the deck while washing. For additional information go to [www.latitudesdeck.com](http://www.latitudesdeck.com).



(A) end tag



(B) product sticker

**Pre-drill and countersink all deck screws, regardless of type, that are within 1-1/2" of the end of the deck board.**

fig. 1

