

## DECKING INSTALLATION

***Building with Fabulis Decking is similar to building with traditional decking materials. Installation must be compliant with local building codes and the installation guidelines below. Fabulis accepts no liability or responsibility for the improper installation of this product. Fabulis may not be suitable for every application, and it is the sole responsibility of the installer to be sure that Fabulis Decking meets all requirements for the intended use. Since all installations are unique, it is the installer's responsibility to determine specific requirements for each Deck application. Refer to the "Factors to Consider" section. The following of the Installation Guidelines will void the warranty. Fabulis Inc. recommends that a licensed architect, engineer or local building official review all applications before installation.***

## TOOLS NEEDED

- 100 tooth circular or miter saw using a carbide-tipped blade
- Power drill
- Miter box
- Tape measure
- Carpenters square
- Blue chalk line  
(red chalk lines will stain boards' surface)
- Safety glasses
- 4 foot level

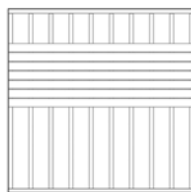
## MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

After designing your deck, calculate the square footage. If your deck is a rectangle, square footage (area) is width times length. If you are using 16 foot boards, divide by 7.3 and for 20 foot boards, use 9.2. These calculations give you the number of boards you will need. Be sure to always round up and add for scrap.

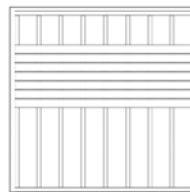
***Always measure twice - cut once.***

## JOIST SUBSTRUCTURE

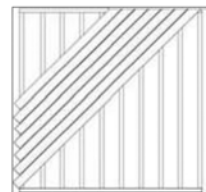
- Do not exceed 12"-on-center joist spacing when installing Deck Board perpendicular to joist.
- Do not exceed 12"-on-center for commercial applications.
- Do not exceed 12"-on-center when installing Deck Boards on a 45 degree angle, such as a herringbone pattern.
- Recommended pitch for proper drainage is 1/16" per linear foot away from the house.
- Ensure that all joists are crowned correctly and that all joists are level across the top, as Fabulis Decking will conform to the surface of the substructure.
- If you are installing heavy loads on the Deck, such as hot tubs, you must comply with the manufacturer's installation requirements.



12"-on-center  
spacing for  
commercial  
applications



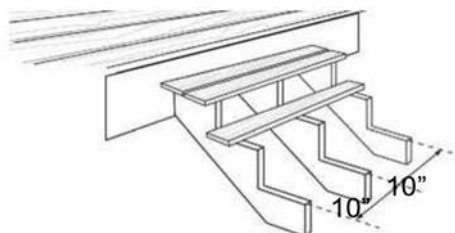
12"-on-center  
spacing for  
residential  
applications



12"-on-center  
spacing for  
herringbone  
applications

## STAIR TREADS/ SUBSTRUCTURE

- Do not exceed 10" on-center for stair treads (stringers).
- Face screws only with stainless steel screws #8, minimum 2" long.
- Do not use hidden fasteners on stair installations.  
For a hidden fastener look, use StarbornPro Plug system.
- Overhang should not exceed 1/2" past fascia or kick board.



## FASTENERS

Fabulis recommends a high quality fastener that meets the following specifications:

- #8 stainless steel screw (trim head screws are most common) Coordinating colors are available.
- Minimum length 2" (for elevations above 6,000 feet a minimum length of 2.1/2" long is required)
- Pre-drilling is not required
- Do not use composite deck screws.

Face screwing directly to the joist is Fabulis's recommended method of installation. For a hidden fastener look, use Starborn Pro Plug system.

### RECOMMENDED FASTENER SYSTEMS:

The following Fastener Systems have been 3rd party tested and approved with Fabulis Decking.

- Starborn Pro Plug System  
(Approved for use with Solid Deck Boards)
- Starborn Headcote Stainless Steel Screws  
(Approved for use with Solid Deck Boards)

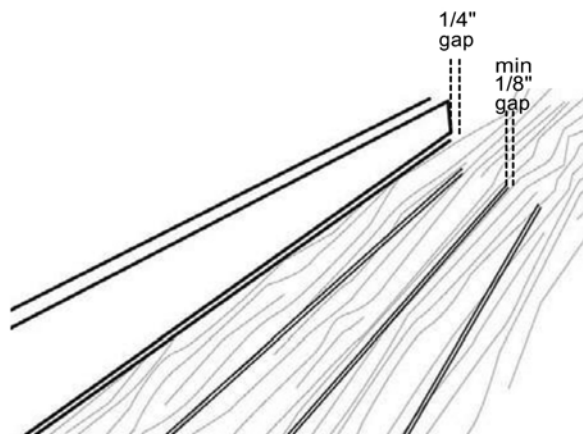
## OTHER HIDDEN FASTENERS

**Fabulis's Warranty does not cover any movement, contraction, waving, squeaking, or bounce that is the direct result of the fasteners not holding the Deck Board in place. These issues must be communicated to your installer and/or the fastener company. Movement of Boards due to fastener failure is not covered by Fabulis's Warranty.**



## VENTILATION

- Minimum 1/4" space from any solid structure
- Minimum 1/4" space around the Deck post
- Minimum 6" between bottom joist and ground
- Recommended side-by-side spacing of a minimum of 1/8". For hidden fasteners, refer to fastener manufacturer's spacing requirements.
- To prevent heat and moisture build-up, an unobstructed airflow is required below the Deck (to adding flow-through vents at various locations around rim joist to increase air flow).



## UNDERDECK SYSTEMS AND ROOFTOP & PATIO DECKS

### SUBSTRUCTURE MUST BE:

- Solidly attached to roof or existing patio. Boards should not be attached to any kind of a "floating" or unsecured substructure.
- Allow for a minimum of 6" of space between the bottom of the joists and under Deck system, rooftop or ground.
- Must be adequately ventilated to ensure Board temperature does not exceed 160 degrees Fahrenheit.
- For enclosed watershed systems under deck, watershed manufacturer Installation Guidelines must be followed, and watershed ventilation standards must meet Fabulis Decking temperature requirements.

## EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION

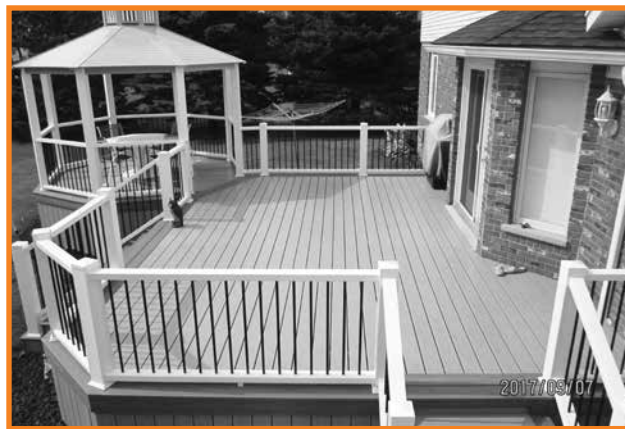
It is not necessary to space for expansion at butt joints. Boards will not expand in width. When properly installed, they will have minimal contraction. The contraction encountered may result in slight gaps, which might be noticed at the ends of Boards or at butt joints. Fastening the Deck Boards according to Fabulis guidelines will help minimize contraction.

- Fasten Boards within 1/2" from the end of the Board.
- Butt joints must be tight (do not gap).
- Minimum 1/4" space from any solid structure
- Minimum 1/4" space around the Deck post
- For best results, stagger butt joints and miters across Deck surface so that all butt joints and miters do not break on the same joist.
- Install Boards as soon after cutting as possible.
- Best practice is to either double joist or scab in additional framing at butt joints. Most fastener manufacturers and many area building codes require this.
- Contraction is most significant where extreme temperature change exists.



## FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Excessive heat-build on the surface of Fabulis Products from external sources, such as, but not limited to, fire or reflected sunlight can potentially lead to damage. For example, sunlight reflected by low-emissive (Low-E) glass can lead to damage of exterior building products, due to elevation of surface temperatures, which far exceed that of normal exposure of the same materials to direct sunlight. Possible damage by such reflected concentrated light might include sagging, warping, distortion, increased contraction and unusual weathering. Deck & Porch Board core temperature cannot exceed 70 degrees Celsius.
- Fabulis Deck & Porch Boards are manufactured with surface finishing technology on three sides. Boards should be stored face up on a dry, flat surface. Do not store on gravel driveways or roads.
- Cellular PVC Deck & Porch Boards are less rigid than treated wood or composite boards. For greater rigidity, consider 12"-on-center joist spacing, especially when using hidden fasteners.
- When cutting Boards, consider flipping the Board over and making your cuts starting on the back side for a cleaner cut.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow dust from tile, concrete, landscape blocks, or any masonry product to accumulate on the Deck or Porch surface as it may damage the surface. Never cut any construction materials on or near the Fabulis Deck or Porch.





## CARE AND CLEANING

- Mild soap, such as Simple Green®, and a garden hose will clean up the Deck in most cases. If a stain proves particularly stubborn, use Krud Kutter® and a soft cotton cloth or a diluted chlorine bleach solution (about 4:1 water to bleach). Avoid use of abrasive scrubbers. A soft-bristled brush can be effective.
- Minor surface scratches on the Deck Boards can be removed by using Soft Scrub with Bleach® (green label). Put a small amount of Soft Scrub® on a non-abrasive cotton cloth and gently rub it on the scratched surface. It will not remove gouges, but it will help with minor scratches. Be sure to rinse the Deck Boards with water after using any cleaner.
- There should be no need to pressure-wash the Deck. If you choose to do so, be sure to use a fan-tip and keep the spray at least 10" above the Deck, and do not exceed 1200 psi.
- Fabulis does not recommend the placement of rubber or vinyl materials such as those in grill mats, rubber backed welcome mats, vinyl or PVC potted containers, etc. on the surface of Fabulis Deck & Porch for extended periods of time. Additives in the rubber and PVC products have a tendency to migrate from these materials to Fabulis Deck & Porch, resulting in discoloration of the Boards. If discoloration occurs, a heat gun will restore the Boards. Hold the heat gun 12" away from the Board's surface using a back and forth motion until color is restored.
- Do not use PVC glue or similar product on the surface of Fabulis Deck & Porch Boards as it may discolor and permanently damage the Deck or Porch surface.
- Exposing the Deck or Porch surface to sunscreens that contain Benzyl alcohol or bug sprays that contain Deet can damage the Boards. If you spill these substances on the Deck, clean it off immediately. Check product labels and consult with the manufacturer as to product compatibility with plastic materials prior to use on or near your Fabulis Deck or Porch.
- For snow and ice removal, you can use most products containing calcium chloride without damaging the Deck & Porch Boards (Magnesium Chloride is also an excellent Green De-icer). Be cautious when using rock salt; it can cause minor scratching. If you are physically removing snow or ice, use a plastic shovel without a metal edge.
- Never use paint removing solvents, such as Goof Off®, as it will permanently damage the Deck or Porch surface. Do not use any product not specified in the Care and Cleaning section.

# trouble shooting

## GUIDE



### DECK SQUEAKS WHEN WALKED ON

#### COMMON CAUSES:

- Deck boards not properly secured to joists. (possible fastener failure or improper installation)
- The sub-structure is moving.
- Or a combination of both.

#### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

- Contact the fastener manufacturer . (possible installation or fastener failure)
- Face screw with two screws one on each side of the board at the location of the squeak. Use Starborn Pro Plug systems for a hidden fastener look.
- Ensure the joists are properly blocked and substructure is solid.

### DECK HAS A "WAVY" LOOK

#### COMMON CAUSES:

- Joists are not level
- Deck boards not properly secured to joists. (possible installation or fastener failure)
- Improper venting below deck generating excessive heat can cause board to warp. (+70 degree Celsius temperature)
- Reflected sunlight generating excessive heat can cause board to warp (+70 degree Celsius temperature)

#### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

- Properly secure boards to joists as instructed above.
- Level joists per installation instructions.
- Ensure the joists are properly blocked and substructure is solid.
- To reduce heat build-up, create an obstructed airflow below the deck. (try adding flow-through vents at various locations around the rim joists to increase airflow)
- Install window screens or contact the window manufacturer regarding potential damage caused by low-emissive (Low-E) glass/reflected light.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE *cont'd*

### DECK BOARDS CONTRACTING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

#### COMMON CAUSES:

- Deck boards not properly secured to joists.  
(possible fastener failure or improper installation)
- The sub-structure is moving.

#### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

- Face screw within 1/2 inch of the end of board - one on each side of the board. Only do this if the fasteners along the length of the board have been properly secured to prevent movement. Use Starborn Pro Plug System for a hidden fastener look.
- Secure the structure and correctly block joists.

### DECK HAS SPRINGY OR BOUNCY FEEL WHEN WALKED ON

**NOTE:** Cellular PVC is less rigid than traditional materials. However, boards are code-approved and will not fail when properly installed a minimum of 12" on center.

#### COMMON CAUSES:

- Deck boards not properly secured to joists.  
(possible installation or fastener failure)
- Improper joist spacing.

#### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

- Face screw with two screws on every joists as instructed above. Use Starborn Pro Plug systems for a hidden fastener look.
- Reduce joist spacing to 12" on center.

### WATER STANDING OR POOLING ON DECK

#### COMMON CAUSES:

- Deck is not properly pitched away from the house.
- Deck boards are not properly secured to joists.  
(Board must be level on joist)
- Joists are not properly leveled.

#### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:

- Pitch deck 1/16" per linear foot away from house.  
(per installation instructions)
- Face screw with 2 screws on every joist as instructed above. Use Starborn Pro Plug systems for a hidden fastener look.
- Properly level joists.