



Batu Decking Reference Guide

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BEST PRACTICES FOR BATU DECKING INSTALLATIONS

Because high density tropical hardwood species like Batu are naturally durable many installers and homeowners assume that the material can be installed as is. To get the most out of your Batu deck proper planning and considerations should be made prior to installation. The primary reason a hardwood deck fails is due to INCORRECT INSTALLATION.

This document is not an installation manual. For a full install guide visit https://www.novausawood.com/PDFs/Nova_Decking_Install_Instructions.pdf

BOARD DIMENSIONS

- Build your deck so that the surface is at least 16" above the ground when using 1×4 or 5/4×4 decking material.
- When using 1×6 or 5/4×6, the deck must be constructed a minimum of 36" off the ground.

ACCLIMATION

In order to make your Nova decking perform the best, it needs to be acclimated to the end use environment. Failure to acclimate appropriately may result in defects such as cupping, twisting, checking, fastener withdrawal, shrinking, and swelling, either before during, or after installation.

A full acclimation guide is available at: <https://www.novausawood.com/PDFs/acclimating-siding-decking.pdf>

Or by scanning the QR code below.



FINISH ALL FOUR SIDES

In order to help prevent the potential for surface checking, cupping and discoloration caused by the nature, we require that Nova Decking be finished on all four sides with an appropriate and sufficiently pigmented oil-based product like Nova's ExoShield.

END SEALER

Nova's hardwood decking is always end-sealed during manufacturing to help prevent splitting and checking on the ends of boards.

- All end cuts should be sealed directly after they are made.
- A clear, water-resistant wax such as Nova's ExoWax has been found to perform well.

VENTILATION & AIR FLOW

Air circulation under the deck must be adequate in order to prevent undesired dimensional changes (warping/cupping).

- Ensure 50% open space below deck to allow proper air flow.
- In close to ground applications, 60" or less above ground, a vapor barrier and pea gravel is necessary to inhibit the possibility of water pooling.

SPACING

Wood is a hygroscopic material and must be allowed to shrink and swell naturally with changes in temperature and humidity.

- Final spacing should be at 1/4" if you have material with a moisture content in the 10-12% range and relative humidity is in the 35-45%.
- If you are installing during very dry conditions and the boards are measuring in the
- 6-8% range, then you should add 1/16" additional spacing to allow for any excess swelling.
- For consistency, employ a gap tool or Nova's ExoDek® QuickClip®, which reliably space boards at 1/4".

FASTENING

Several different options are available for fasteners and for fastening techniques. We recommend stainless steel screws through the face of every board, two screws per joist. Self-tapping stainless-steel screws are available but may require pre-drilling. Pre-drilling is always required on the ends of the boards.

- Hidden Fasteners: We recommend clips, such as Nova's ExoDek® QuickClip®, that allow for the natural expansion and contraction of the wood as it takes on seasonal moisture.
- Screw and Plug: The other accepted method for a hidden fastener look is the Starborn ProPlug system, as it still achieves face screwing for maximum hold-down and the use of stainless-steel screws.

A full hardwood decking installation manual can be found at https://www.novausawood.com/PDFs/Nova_Decking_Install_Instructions.pdf

Call the experts at Nova if you have any questions about your project!