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## STEP 1: Installing the First Deck Board

Apply a bead of exterior adhesive to each joist approximately 3/8" in width (you may want to do this as you go so, that, it does not dry before completion if you have a larger area to install). While this gives more holding strength to the boards, its primary purpose is to help prevent squeaking from uneven joists. Even though joists may seem even, changes in weather can cause movement in the future. Use a 1/8" drill bit with a 3/8" countersink to pre-drill a hole for the initial face-driven screws. All Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> Hidden Deck Fastener systems, 175 count and above, include a 1/8" High Speed Drill Bit.

**(We suggest using the DeckWise<sup>®</sup> Drill & Drive<sup>™</sup> pictured above left (not included in Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> Fastener kits), which is a 3-in-1 drill bit, countersink bit, and screwgun T15 tip that will help speed up this process.)**



## STEP 2: Installing the First Board (cont'd)

Next, securely drive a deck screw into the countersunk hole to the joist below. All Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> fastener kits, 175 count and above, have extra stainless steel deck screws included in them for this step. Wood plugs will next be installed into the holes to hide the screws and create a smooth surface.



## STEP 3: Plugging the board countersunk screw hole

Place a dab of glue (Gorilla Glue<sup>®</sup> is suggested) into the countersink hole from the above steps 1 & 2. Insert an Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> 3/8" tapered Ipe plug and tap it down so it fits snug into the hole. We encourage finding the wood grain in the plug and aligning it with the deck board grain if possible. After the glue on each plug has set, remove any part of the Ipe plug that protrudes above the deck board. You can accomplish this by using a flush cut pull saw, belt sander or an orbital sander with 80 grit.



## STEP 4: Cut slots for Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> Hidden Deck Fasteners

**Note: pre-grooved deck boards are now available from many decking suppliers. If you are using pre-grooved decking, skip this step and proceed to step 5.**

Use a biscuit joiner or a router (with a 5/32" X 1/2" slot cutting bit) to cut a slot in the edge of deck board above each joist. You will want to center this groove in the board so there is a symmetrical profile for best results using the Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> Hidden Deck Fasteners by DeckWise<sup>®</sup>.

## Tools Needed

**ELECTRIC SCREW GUN** - Used to drill pilot holes and for installing the stainless steel screws. A cordless screwgun with an adjustable clutch is recommended so torque can be properly set to avoid over-tightening of screws.

**CAULK GUN & EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE** - Used as a leveling agent for uneven joists.

**BISCUIT JOINER\*** (Common cabinet maker tool, available at most hardware stores & home centers) - Used to make a slot in the edge of the deck boards to allow insertion of the Ipe Clip<sup>®</sup> fasteners.

**ROUTER\*** Can be used if you do not have access to a biscuit joiner, a #20 biscuit cutting router bit (also called a 5/32" slot cutting bit) will work fine. This method is actually preferred by some installers.

\*Not required for use with pre-grooved decking.

## Made in the USA

All DeckWise<sup>®</sup> Hidden Deck Fasteners are proudly engineered and manufactured in our US facility.

**Watch Installation Videos**  
[www.deckwise.com/videos](http://www.deckwise.com/videos)

On mobile devices, scan this QR code to watch installation videos. (QR Scanner programs are free to download in most App Stores.)



# IPE CLIP® FASTENER INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS (CON'T)



5

## STEP 5: Predrill a Pilot Hole (FOR HARDWOOD DECKING ONLY.)

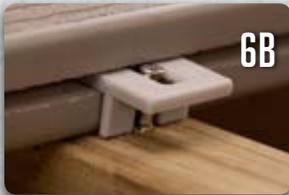
Insert one Ipe Clip® fastener into the groove of the deck board above each joist. Where two boards meet on a single joist, only one fastener is needed. Drill a 1/8" pilot hole at a 45° angle for each screw when installing Ipe Clip® fasteners into hardwood decking. You only need to pre-drill through the hardwood. This is to avoid splintering and to make sure the decking is pulled tight to the joist by the screw in the next step.



6A

## STEP 6A: Screwing Ipe Clip® Fasteners (USE (6A) FOR HARDWOOD DECKING.)

Run the stainless steel screws at approximately a 45° angle through the hole in the center of the Ipe Clip® fastener, through the deck board, and down into the joist. It should not take much torque to fasten the deck board. Once the board is snug to the joist you can install the next fastener on the next joist. A screwgun with a clutch setting works great for this as you can turn the clutch down to avoid overdriving screws. Fasten each board using one fastener and one screw per joist. Where two boards meet on a single joist, only one centered fastener is needed at their meeting point.



6B

## STEP 6B: Screwing Ipe Clip® Fasteners (USE (6B) FOR COMPOSITE/PVC DECKING ONLY.)

Run the stainless steel screws straight down through the center of the Ipe Clip® fastener and into the joist. It should not take much torque to fasten the deck board. Once the board is snug to the joist you can install the next fastener on the next joist. A screwgun with a clutch setting works great for this as you can turn the clutch down to avoid overdriving screws. Fasten each board using one fastener and one screw per joist. Where two boards meet on a single joist, only one centered fastener is needed at their meeting point.



7

## STEP 7: Installing the Next Board Over the Exposed Side of the Fastener

Slide the next deck board onto the installed Ipe Clip® fastener protruding from the previous deck board. Again, if pre-grooved decking is not being used, use a biscuit jointer or a router (with a 5/32" X 1/2" slot cutting bit) to cut a slot into the edge of the next deck board above the joist. Keep in mind, this next board will also have Ipe Clip® hidden fasteners installed on it's opposite edge for fastening, and so forth.

**NOTE: When using Ipe Clip® ExtremeKD™ or Extreme4™ fasteners, use the DeckWise® spacer tools provided to ensure that fastener legs are not crushed while keeping your deck boards tight. Remove spacer tools as soon as any deck board is fastened.**

----- Repeat steps 4-8 until all deck boards are installed up to the last board -----



8

## STEP 8: Installing the Last Deck Board

On the last deck board, fastening clips will not be used and it is necessary to fasten the outside edge with surface screws. These surface screws can be concealed by countersinking a 3/8" hole and using the wood plugs supplied. It is also recommended to apply a small amount of construction adhesive on the outside joist for securing the last or outside edge deck boards.

## Recommended Method of Wood Plug Installation (For 1st and Last Deck Board)

**STEP #1** - Drill an 1/8" pilot hole for the stainless steel trim head screw.

**STEP #2** - Drill a 3/8" countersink hole approximately 3/8" deep.

**STEP #3** - Drive screw through the countersunk pilot hole.

**STEP #4** - Put a few drops of glue into the hole (Polyurethane based recommended).

**STEP #5** - Insert tapered wood plug into hole. Tap slightly with hammer.

**STEP #6** - When glue is dry, remove excess plug with a sharp chisel or saw. Sand smooth so that plug is flush with deck surface. A round, random orbit sander with 120 grit sand paper works best.

## Helpful Installation Tips

- If the fastener is tipping down when screw is installed, making the next board difficult to slide on, reinstall the screw to stand it more vertical. The screw should be installed at approximately a 45° to 65° angle.
- Do not over tighten screws. They should be flush or slightly above the surface of the Ipe Clip® fastener.
- Coat decking with proper deck finish after installation to reduce any wood shrinkage or movement. Ipe Oil™ or similar product is recommended.
- Use an end wax on end grain cuts to help prevent checking. Ipe Seal™ or similar product is recommended.
- Using the DeckWise® Drill & Drive™ tool to build your deck makes predrilling, plugging, and driving screws much faster than standard drilling and driving.
- The Hardwood Wrench™ is a self-locking board straightening tool with 1,100 pounds of bending force and works seamlessly with Ipe Clip® Hidden Deck Fasteners to hold deck boards straight while fasteners are being installed.