

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

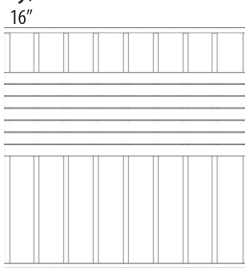
Building with Gossen<sup>®</sup> Decking is similar to building with traditional decking materials. Installation must be compliant with local building codes and the installation guidelines below. Gossen Corporation accepts no liability or responsibility for the improper installation of this product. Gossen may not be suitable for every application, and it is the sole responsibility of the installer to be sure that Gossen Decking meets all requirements for the intended use. Since all installations are unique, it is also the installer's responsibility to determine specific requirements for each Deck application. Refer to the "Factors to Consider" section. Gossen Corporation recommends that a licensed architect, engineer or local building official review all applications before installation. If you need further assistance, please call the DeckPro at 1-800-558-8984 or visit our website at [www.gossencorp.com](http://www.gossencorp.com).

### TOOLS NEEDED

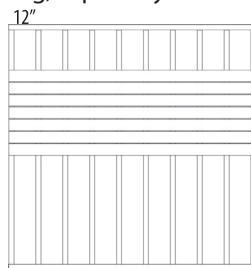
- Circular or Miter saw using a carbide-tipped blade
- Power drill
- Miter-box
- Tape measure
- Carpenters square
- Blue chalk line – red chalk lines will stain boards' surface
- Safety glasses

### JOIST SUBSTRUCTURE

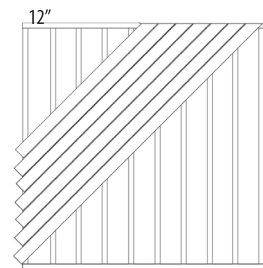
- Do not exceed 16"-on-center joist spacing when installing deck board perpendicular to joist
- Do not exceed 12"-on-center for commercial applications
- Do not exceed 12"-on-center when installing deck boards on a 45 degree angle, such as a herringbone pattern
- Recommended pitch for proper drainage 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 Gossen 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.
- For greater rigidity, consider 12"-on-center joist spacing, especially when using hidden fasteners



16"-on-center spacing  
for standard residential  
applications



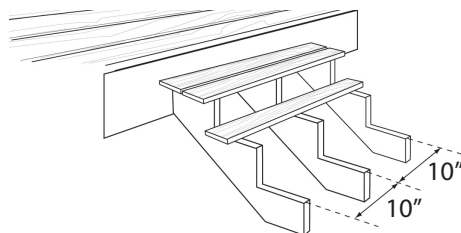
12"-on-center spacing  
for standard commercial  
applications



12"-on-center spacing for  
herringbone applications

### STAIR TREADS/SUBSTRUCTURE

- Do not exceed 10"-on-center for stair treads (stringers)
- Face screw only with stainless steel screws # 8, minimum 2 1/4" long
- Do not use hidden fasteners on stair installations
- Overhang should not exceed 1/2"



## MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

After designing your deck, calculate the square footage. If your deck is a rectangle, square footage (area) equals width times length. If you are using 12-foot boards, divide the square footage by 5.5; for 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.

For example: 20 foot x 20 foot deck = 400 sq. ft. divided by 5.5 (if using 12' boards) = 72.7 boards. Round up and add for scrap.

## FASTENERS

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

- #8 stainless steel screw (Trim head screws are most widely used by contractors) Coordinating colors are available. Contact your dealer for options.
- Minimum length 2¼" (for elevations above 6,000 feet - minimum length of 2¾" inches long)
- Pre-drilling is not required
- Do not use composite deck screws

Directly screwing to the joist is Gossen's recommended best practice

- Face screw with two screws per joist
- Toe screw with two screws per joist

(This can be accomplished using the CAMO® Deck Tool installation system or the KREG® Deck Jig™ system. Contact the Manufacturer for details regarding these tools)

## GOSSEN KERFED DECKING

Gossen® Decking is available with an optional factory grooved edge designed for hidden fasteners. The groove will accept a number of available hidden fasteners. Some Hidden Fasteners commonly used by contractors installing Gossen decking are:

- Grabber G5™
- Mantis 396 Deck Clip™

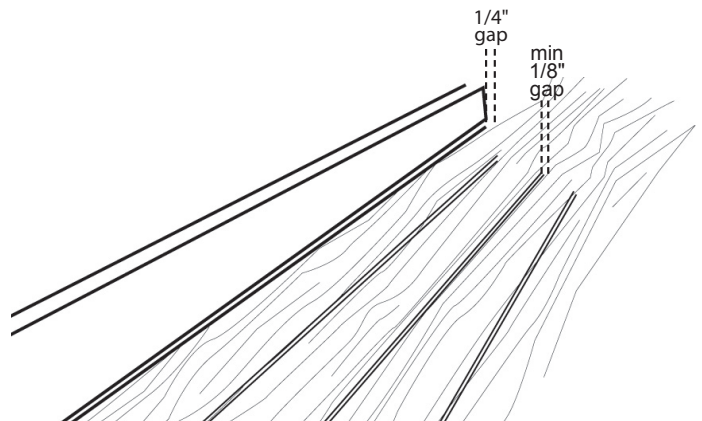
Before using any type of hidden fasteners, check with the manufacturer of the fastener to ensure compatibility and confirm installation requirements.

Important considerations when selecting a hidden fastener are:

- Fasteners must hold board securely to the joist (do not use fasteners that allow for board movement of any kind)
- Groove dimensions: 5/32" wide x 3/8" deep (0.420" profile)
- Contact hidden fastener manufacturer for compatibility and installation requirements
- Hidden fasteners are not recommended for installations above 6,500 feet

## VENTILATION/BOARD SPACING REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum ¼" space between boards and any solid structure
- Minimum ¼" space around the deck post
- Minimum joist height of 3½"
- Recommended side-by-side spacing of a minimum of ½". For hidden fasteners, refer to manufacturer's spacing requirements
- To prevent heat and moisture build-up, an unobstructed airflow is required below the deck (try adding flow-through vents at various locations around rim joists to increase airflow)



## ROOFTOP AND PATIO DECKS

Substructure must be:

- Solidly attached to roof or existing patio
- Minimum joist height of 3½"
- Must be adequately ventilated to ensure board temperature does not exceed 160 degrees Fahrenheit
- For enclosed watershed systems under deck, Watershed Manufacturer Installation Instructions must be followed, and Watershed Ventilation standards must meet Gossen decking temperature requirements.

## EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION

It is not necessary to space for expansion at butt joints. Boards will not expand beyond their original length or cause buckling. Boards will not expand laterally. 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 Gossen guidelines will help minimize contraction.

- Fasten boards within ½" from the end of the board
- To help minimize contraction, be sure to fasten with two screws at the end of each board, including the butt joints, and screw all mitered corners.
- Butt joints must be tight (do not gap)
- Minimum ¼" space between boards and any solid structure
- Minimum ¼" 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
- Some area building codes may require double joisting when joining boards end to end. Always check with your local code authority for specific requirements before installation.
- Contraction is most significant where extreme temperature change exists

## RIMBOARD WITH CLEANEDGE (FASCIA)

Designed to cover rim joist, each board is smooth on one side and textured on the other. Either side can be faced out. (Dimension: Thickness-5/8", length-12' width-7 ¼" or 11 ¼")

- Fasten boards within ½" from the edge/top/bottom of the board
- Use 2 screws every 16" for the 7¼" wide boards
- Use 3 screws every 16" for 11¼" wide boards
- Consider adding a screw through the edge of mitered corners to minimize contraction

## OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Excessive heat-build on the surface of Gossen products from external sources, such as, but not limited to, fire or reflected sunlight can potentially lead to damage. For example, sunlight that may be 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 board core temperature cannot exceed 160 degrees.
- Cellular PVC deck boards are less rigid than treated wood or composite boards. For greater rigidity, consider 12"-on-center joist spacing, especially when using hidden fasteners
- IMPORTANT: Do not allow dust from tile, concrete, landscape blocks, or any masonry product to accumulate on the Deck surface as it may damage the surface. Never cut any construction materials on or near the Gossen Decking.

## 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 inches above the deck, and do not exceed 1200 psi.
- Gossen 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 Gossen Decking for extended periods of time. Additives in the rubber and PVC products have a tendency to migrate from these materials to Gossen decking, resulting in discoloration of the surface.
- Do not use PVC glue or similar product on the surface of a Gossen Deck boards as it may discolor and permanently damage the deck surface.
- Exposing the deck 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 Gossen Deck.
- For snow and ice removal, you can use most products containing calcium chloride without damaging the deck 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's surface. Do not use any product not specified in the Care and Cleaning section without consulting the Deck Pro 800-558-8984.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE

### *Deck squeaks when walked on.*

Common causes:

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

Potential solutions:

- Contact fastener Manufacturer (possible installation or fastener failure)
- Fasten with two screws one on each side of the board at the location of the squeak (Toe screwing w/Camo or Kreg tool, or Face screw)
- Ensure the joists are properly blocked and substructure is solid

### *Deck has a "wavy" look*

Common cause:

- 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 (+160 degree Fahrenheit board temperature)
- Reflected Sunlight generating excessive heat can cause board to warp (+160 degree Fahrenheit board temperature)

Potential solution:

- 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 unobstructed airflow below the deck (try adding flow-through vents at various locations around rim joists to increase airflow)
  - Contact Window Manufacture regarding potential damage caused by low-emissive (Low-E) glass/reflected sunlight

### *Deck boards contracting beyond expectations*

Common causes:

- Deck boards not properly secured to joists (possible installation or fastener failure)
- Sub-structure is moving

Potential solutions:

- Fasten with screws within 1/2 inch of the end of the board—One on each side of the board (face screw or toe screw)
- Secure the structure and correctly block joists

### *Deck has springy or bouncy feel when walked on (deflection)*

NOTE: Cellular PVC is less rigid than traditional materials. However, boards are code-approved and will not fail when properly installed 16"-on-center

Common causes:

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

Potential solutions:

- Fasten with 2 screws on every joist as instructed above (Face screw or toe screw)
- Reduce joist spacing to 12- inch on center

### *Water standing or pooling on deck*

Common causes:

- Deck not properly pitched away from house
- Deck boards not properly secured to joists (board must be level on Joist)
- Joists are not properly leveled

Potential solutions:

- Pitch deck  $\frac{1}{8}$  the inch per linear-foot away from house (per installation instructions)
- Fasten with 2 screws on every joist as instructed above
- Properly Level joists

### *Deck surface discolored by Rubber/Vinyl Mats etc.*

Potential solution

- Apply dry heat to the area; most effective is a heat gun. Keep the gun 8 inches above the deck surface and use a continuous movement. Be sure not to scorch the deck surface. This should restore the surface appearance.

Remember to continually check the website for the most updated instructions

[www.gossencorp.com](http://www.gossencorp.com) or call Deck Pro @ 800-558-8984