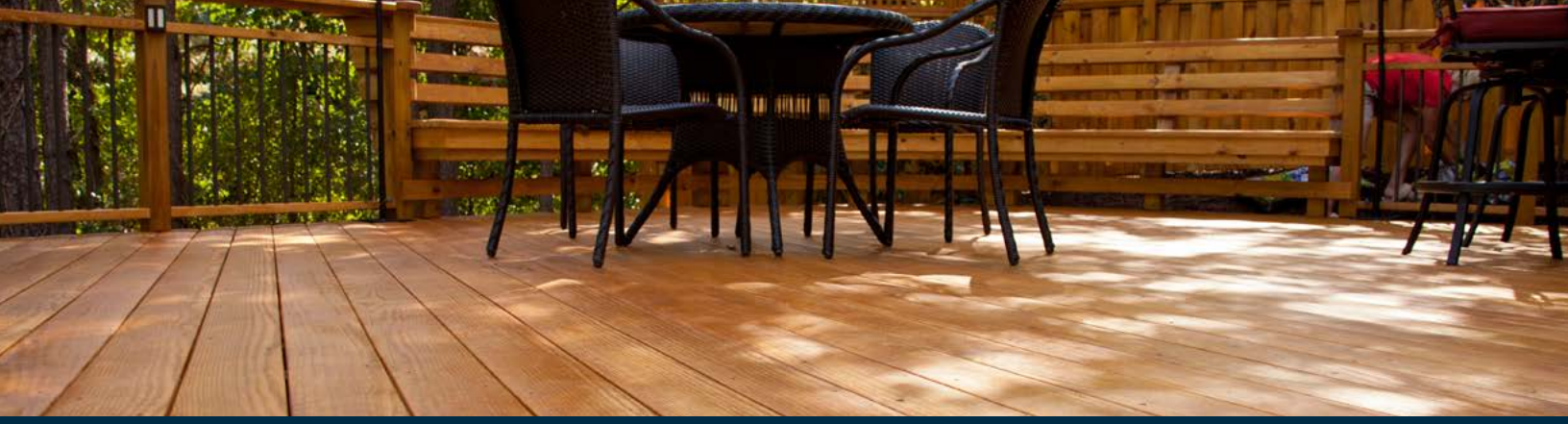

Before you start: check your local building code requirements

TIPS TO PROPERLY INSTALL TREATED WOOD

Whether you hire a contractor or build your project yourself, note: treated wood will last a long time, therefore so will your workmanship.

CHECK THE LABELS

Always check the labels for the correct application; **wood is treated with different loadings of preservative for different applications**. Labels will designate Above Ground, Ground Contact or Ground Contact Heavy Duty applications. Reference to AWPA U1 or ICC-ES ESR 1721 or ESR 1477 will indicate the product has been produced to accepted requirements and inspected.

***Note**: For multi-level structures or screened porches with roofs, posts may be required to be treated to AWPA UC4B — Ground Contact Heavy Duty. Check local building code during permit process before construction.*

DECK BOARDS

- Separate deck boards as follows to allow for expansion and contraction. If heavy and wet, separate boards no more than $^{1}/_{16}$" as some shrinkage will occur. If light and dry, separate boards about $^{1}/_{8}$" to allow for swelling.
- Avoid long spans in construction. The greater the distance between supporting points, the more the board will tend to warp and twist as it dries. Also avoid designs with long cantilevers unsecured at one end.
- Lumber wider than six inches should not be used as a flat surface. Wide, flat boards are subject to ponding of rain water, which can lead to cupping problems.
- Place boards bark side up, then they will hold less water and will be more likely to have treated sapwood on the exposed face.
- Make sure there is good underdeck ventilation for above-ground treated wood, allowing airflow around the entire deck. All joists and beams must be off the ground and free of leaves or other debris.
- Proper flashing or spacers between all adjacent structures and the deck should be used.
- Cover upper ends of posts with post caps or cut them at angles to shed water.

WOLMANIZED® OUTDOOR® WOOD

WOLMANIZED® WOOD U

For additional information to help you keep your deck safe and well maintained, see

www.WolmanizedWoodU.com

- Screws take longer to drive than nails, but hold boards securely and will allow for easier removal if necessary.
- To reduce splitting, drill a pilot hole about three quarters the diameter of the nail. For dense or brittle wood, grind sharpness from nails or blunt the points by striking them carefully with a hammer. Blunt nails cut through; sharp ones pry apart.
- Use enough nails. Skimping doesn't pay. Use two nails across a 2 x 4 and three across a 2 x 6. Drive nails at a slight angle toward each other.
- If a board is bowed, install it with the crown up. Gravity and the weight of people and furniture will flatten it.
- If a board has a slight bend to it, it sometimes can be straightened as it is nailed in place.

FASTENERS

- Use two nails across a 2 x 4 and three across a 2 x 6. Drive nails at a slight angle toward each other.
- Check fastener boxes to make sure you are buying fasteners that meet standards. Fasteners should be hot-dipped galvanized meeting ASTM A 153 or equally protected material. Connectors should be made from galvanized steel sheet conforming to ASTM A 653 class G185. **Fasteners not meeting or exceeding these requirements could result in premature failures of fasteners and degradation of treated wood**.
- To reduce splitting, especially near the ends of boards, drill a pilot hole about three quarters the diameter of the nail. For dense or brittle wood, grind sharpness from nails or blunt the points by striking them carefully with a hammer.
- Use 3 $^{1}/_{4}$'' long nails on nominal two-inch decking. Use two at each joint with 2 x 4s laid flat; use three for 2 x 6s laid flat. 3" nails are recommended for $^{5}/_{4}$" decking.

END CUTS

- Liberally coat all cut ends, holes, or other intrusions into the wood with a suitable wood preservative product containing a minimum of 0.675% copper as oxine copper (copper-8 or copper-8-quinolinolate), 1% copper as copper naphthenate, or 2% zinc as zinc naphthenate. **Use of such preservative is a requirement for coverage under the Wolmanized® Residential Wood Limited Warranty** (wolmanizedwood.com) for hem-fir, Douglas fir, and western hemlock of any dimensions, and for other species with a nominal thickness greater than six inches.
- Orient embedded support columns so original factory treated ends are in ground contact. Cut ends should face upward and be covered with post caps or cut at angles to shed water and treated with a topical preservative.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

No maintenance is needed to renew resistance to fungi and termites. Wolmanized® Outdoor® Wood Products have a limited warranty against these organisms.

However, protection is required to maintain the wood's appearance against weather. Sun and rain cycles cause stresses in lumber and result in swelling, shrinking, warping, and cracking.

- To help protect your project against moisture damage, apply an effective brand of surface water repellent as soon as your outdoor wood project is finished or, for large projects, as sections are completed. Water repellent should be applied every year or two.
- To revitalize a dingy appearance caused by dirt and mildew, use deck brightener to clean the outdoor wood.