

Suggested Installation Guidelines for an Ipe deck

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General Consideration:

Ipe is an extremely dense, tropical hardwood with exceptional natural durability and insect resistance. When properly installed, paying attention to the natural characteristics of the wood, an Ipe deck can be expected to literally give a lifetime of service with as much maintenance as the customer desires. It is the only deck product available today that can claim to have a real potential for **ZERO MAINTENANCE** over its useful life.

Customer Storage and Handling Considerations:

Ipe is supplied to distributors, like J.H. Monteath Lumber Co., as partially air-dried lumber intended for outdoor use only. Ipe boards should be stored out of direct sunlight and like any other professional use of solid wood, the boards should be allowed to acclimate and stabilize at the prevailing humidity levels of the environment before installation.

Air Flow and Spacing Consideration Upon Installation:

Allowances for suitable groundside ventilation in your design in order to assure proper air circulation is an absolute necessity for the long-term stability of an *Ipe* deck. Since all species of wood, including *Ipe*, react to moisture and temperature, it is essential that the wood be allowed “to breathe” upon its installation. In order to allow for the natural expansion and contraction of a solid wood product like *Ipe*, installation should provide for a minimum of 1/16” gap between the deck boards to aid in air circulation. After two full seasons, fully seasoned shrinkage rates of approximately 1/16” on 4” wide boards to 1/8” on 6” wide boards can be expected.

Cutting and Drilling Considerations:

Although very dense species like *Ipe* can be worked with standard carbide tipped saw blades and router bits, the use of contractor quality cobalt drills and similar countersinks will give the longest tool life and best results. *Ipe*, like all species of wood, is most vulnerable to degradation through the end grain. Upon shipping, the ends of each board are coated with a sealer to retard against shrinkage and checking. ***In order to provide the best protection for your deck, it is recommended that the ends of freshly cut boards be treated with end sealer to reduce end checking and the potential for splitting to occur on the exposed ends of the boards.***

Fastening Considerations:

In order to assure the best and most long-lived results of your work, it is strongly recommended that only stainless steel fasteners be used in securing Ipe boards to the deck structural members. The longevity of these fasteners will match the longevity of the Ipe and will not “stain” the wood, as is the case when lesser quality fasteners degrade. It is most desirable to use a fastening system from *below* the deck, to create a uniform appearance of the deck boards. There are several such fastening systems commercially available from home centers and builders supply outlets. Proper installation of these fastening systems should result in successful and long-lived fastening of Ipe deck boards to the structural members. If a fastening system that attaches the boards to the structural members throughout the exposed face of the Ipe is used, it is strongly recommended that the countersink holes be plugged and sanded flush to provide a uniform appearance of the facing boards.

Finishing Considerations:

Ipe, unlike other deck building materials, will naturally weather to a silvery gray appearance with *No Maintenance*. This colored patina will continue to mellow throughout the seasons with absolutely no loss of structural integrity or insect resistance of the *Ipe*. If painting, staining, or other coloring is desired, it is best to consult with the manufacturer of the desired finishing system in order to determine the applicability and longevity of the finishing system upon application to *Ipe*.

DECK BOARD SPANS:

- 3/4" x 3 1/2" – 16" on center**
- 3/4" x 5 1/2" – 24" on center**
- 1" x 3 1/2" – 24" on center**
- 1" x 5 1/2" – 24" on center**
- 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" – 24" on center**
- 1 1/2" x 5 1/2" – 36" on center**

SIZES OF IPE STOCKED BY J.H. MONTEATH LUMBER COMPANY
1X4, 1X6, 1X10, 5/4X4, 5/4X6, 5/4X8, 2X2, 2X4, 2X6, 2X10, 2X12 & 4X4
Random length up to 16'. Limited quantities available over 16' at a 15% premium

DECKING COMPARISON CHART

COMMON NAME	IPE	CEDAR	REDWOOD	CCA SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE
GRADE	Clear, all-heart, No knots, no sapwood	Varies, common grades have knots & sapwood	Varies, common grades have knots & sapwood	Varies widely, common grades have knots, splits & other defects
APPEARANCE	No splinters, surface stays smooth & resists dents and scratches. No sealers required, naturally develops attractive silvery gray color	Scratches easily, splinters, weathers to a dirty gray without regular cleaning & applications of sealers.	Scratches easily, Splinters, becomes a dirty black without regular cleaning and applications of sealers.	Surface develops large splits, splinters; boards check & cup readily, dents & scratches easily. Regular cleaning & applications of sealers mandatory to keep neat appearance
DECAY RESISTANCE & MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT	HIGH 25 Year Plus No maintenance required to keep attractive appearance	MODERATE 10 – 15 Years Regular maintenance required to keep attractive appearance	MODERATE 10 – 15 Year Regular maintenance required to keep attractive appearance	LOW 1 – 3 Years High maintenance required to extend beyond three seasons
FIRE RATINGS	A	B-C	B-C	C-D
RESISTANCE TO INSECTS & MARINE BORERS	HIGH	LOW	LOW	Varies with maintenance
MOVEMENT IN SERVICE	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SEVERE
WEIGHT (Per cubic Foot)	69 Lbs.	30 Lbs.	30 Lbs.	35 Lbs.
BENDING STRENGTH	25,400 PSI	6,800 PSI	7,900 PSI	14,500 PSI
MODULUS OF ELASTICITY (1000 PSI)	3,140	930	1,000	1,700
HARDNESS	3680 LBS	900 LBS	480 LBS	690 LBS

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