

# Installing Tropical Imported Hardwood Decking w/ CAMO Edge deck Fastening System

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## Choosing the correct CAMO guide and screws:

### Recommended CAMO Marksman Guides:

- CAMO Marksman Pro-X1 (1/16" gap), Pro-X2(1/8" gap) or Pro(3/16" gap) which provides automatic side to side spacing 1/16" is the minimum allowable for installation of tropical imported hardwood decking. Your 5 1/2" wide deck boards can be expected to shrink 1/8" – 1/4" in width.

### Recommended CAMO Edge fasteners:

**Only use CAMO 316 stainless steel Edge screws along with the CAMO pre-drill method** (shown below and at [www.camofasteners.com](http://www.camofasteners.com)) for installation of tropical imported hardwood decking.

- CAMO Edge 316 stainless steel screws
  - 1 7/8" length for 1" or less board thickness
  - 2 3/8" length for 1" – 1 1/2" board thickness

**Why stainless steel screws?** Tropical hardwoods release tannins which can cause board staining if allowed to react with typical coated carbon steel screws. The use of stainless steel screws significantly reduces the chances of tannin reaction

## Installing your Tropical Imported Hardwood Decking

### Preparation:

Acclimate your deck boards: Always allow you deck boards to acclimate to the local environment temperatures and moisture levels for **2 -3 weeks** prior to installing. Equilibrium moisture content varies in different regions so it's important to let the decking adjust to your climate. This will result in more stable and consistent deck boards as all of them will acclimate together. During this process keep the boards out of direct sunlight by covering the length of the boards with a tarp but leave the ends open to allow moisture to escape the boards. Once seasoned, expect width shrinkage of up to 1/4" on 5 1/2" wide boards.

### Installing your decking:

CAMO recommends a maximum joist span of 16" on center when installing 1" x 4" and 1" x 6" decking.

**Proper ventilation of the deck structure is critical!** The area under the deck should always provide adequate cross-ventilation (from one side to the other). This will help prevent cupping and twisting caused by moisture trapped below the deck.

- Ground under the deck should slope away so that moisture is not allowed to puddle below the structure
- Do not allow joists to contact the ground or concrete as they can wick moisture up into the decking

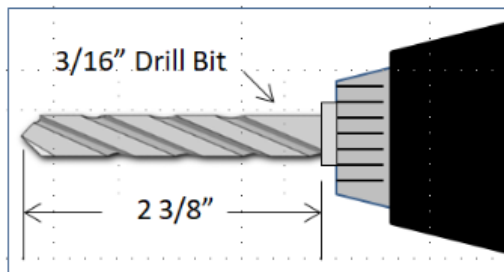
Board spacing: Please allow a minimum of 1/16" (Marksman Pro-X1 guide) gap between boards at install as boards will shrink depending on their actual moisture content at time of install.

Some deck boards that have been acclimated will require straightening and should be clamped into position until properly fastened

**Fastening with CAMO Edge Fastening System:** *(See screw selection information above for choosing the right Edge Screw for you decking)*

In addition to the CAMO Edge Fastening System instructions **ALWAYS** use the CAMO Edge pre-drill method when installing tropical hardwood deck boards. This will provide a partial pre-drill in the deck board.

1. Use the special CAMO Edge pre-drill bit or a 3/16" drill bit chucked at 2 3/8" from the tip of the bit to the drill chuck as shown below:



2. Place the Marksman Pro series guide in the correct fastening position on the deck board over the joist.

3. Using the Marksman Pro series as a drill guide, pre-drill both sides of the deck board.

4. With the Marksman Pro series guide still in place, insert CAMO EDGE Fasteners in the Screw Guides and fasten.