

innovative | beautiful | resilient



bestdeck
Composite Decking
Installation Guide

bestdeck
Composite Decking

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Congratulations

on your purchase of
Bestdeck Composite Decking!

This instruction manual will guide you through the installation of Bestdeck Composite Decking. Please be sure to read this entire manual before you begin installing your deck.

Prior to construction, check with your local regulatory agency for special code requirements in your area.

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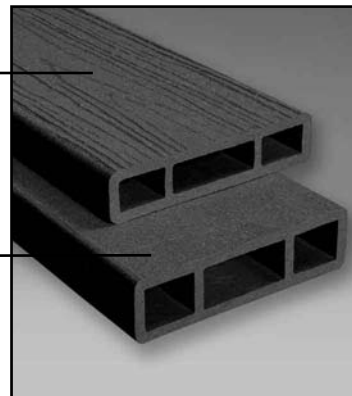
Bestdeck Profiles and Accessories

Bestdeck is available in two profiles, Bestdeck16 and Bestdeck24. Bestdeck16 can span 16 inches on center, while Bestdeck24 can span 24 inches on center. Both profiles are reversible with a traditional wood grain pattern on one side and a contemporary brushed pattern on the other. Bestdeck Fascia features the brushed finish, perfectly matching both profiles. It is ideal for concealing Bestdeck's hollow core design and can be worked just like wood. Bestdeck End Caps can also be used to conceal Bestdeck's hollow core to provide a clean, finished look. Bestdeck Hidden Fastener Clip with Screws and Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws have been designed for fastening Bestdeck boards. It is important to note that failure to use these fastening methods when installing your deck will void the warranty. Bestdeck profiles, Bestdeck Fascia and accessories come in three colors: Nantucket Gray, Chesapeake Sand and Sedona Red.

Bestdeck Profiles

Bestdeck16

5/4x6 Deck Board (1.25"x5.56")
Standard Length: 12', 16' or 20'
Weight: 1.8/lf



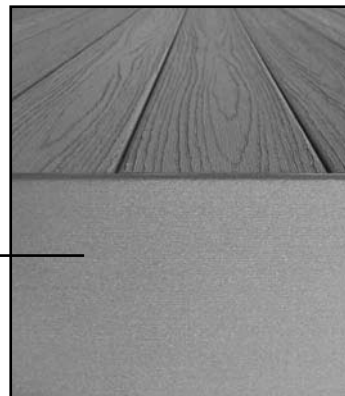
Bestdeck24

2x6 Deck Board (1.5"x5.56")
Standard Length: 12', 16' or 20'
Weight: 1.9/lf

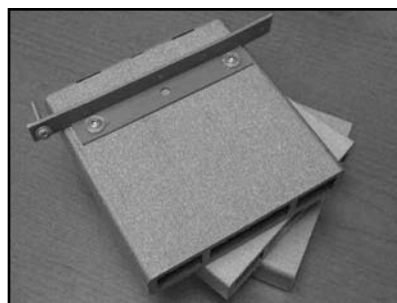
Bestdeck Fascia

Bestdeck Fascia

Actual Dimensions: 1/2" x 9"
Standard Length: 12'
Weight: 2.33/lf



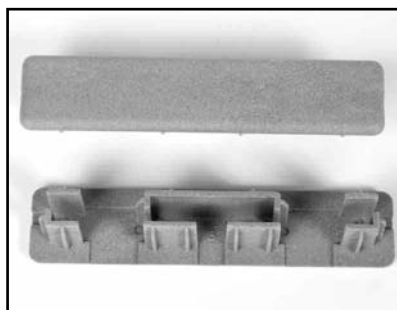
Bestdeck Accessories



Bestdeck Hidden Fastener Clip with Screws



Bestdeck Hollow Core



Bestdeck16 End Cap



#7 Smart Bit

Job Site Storage

Proper storage and handling of Bestdeck is essential to maintain the quality of your deck boards.

- Store deck boards on a dry, flat surface.
- Store at least 6 inches off the ground to eliminate the need for cleaning prior to installation.
- Support deck boards at least every 24 inches on center. Note: additional blockage may be necessary to create a flat surface when storing on uneven ground.
- Stack units no more than four high. (Bestdeck16 units are 12 boards high and 8 wide; Bestdeck24 units are 10 boards high and 8 wide)
- Keep product covered with non-translucent material prior to installation.
- Handle with care; do not dump when unloading.

Safety

When installing Bestdeck, always wear proper clothing and protective equipment, such as safety glasses and hearing protection.

Building Codes

Follow all local building codes when designing and installing your deck substructure. In addition to local building codes, follow the instructions presented in this manual when installing Bestdeck product. Failure to do so will void the warranty.

Expansion and Contraction

Composite decking, like most construction material, experiences some expansion and contraction with temperature change. This is natural, but must be taken into consideration when installing Bestdeck, especially if working in extreme temperatures.

For best results, mark, cut and install boards when they are approximately the same temperature. Fastening your boards soon after cutting them will also minimize expansion and contraction. It is important to note that longer boards will experience the greatest amount of expansion.

To avoid potential problems, install your deck during the average daytime temperature for your area. If installing on extremely hot days, it is important to take steps to reduce the effects of contraction as the boards cool, such as storing the boards in the shade. If installing on extremely cold days, the effects of expansion and contraction should also be taken into consideration. The chart below shows the approximate change in profile lengths that Bestdeck boards will experience due to thermal expansion and contraction.

Change in Temp. (on an average day)	12' board	16' Board	20' Board
-40 F	-3/16"	-1/4"	-5/16"
-20 F	-1/16"	-1/8"	-3/16"
Recommended Start Temperature	50 to 65 F	50 to 65 F	50 to 65 F
+20 F	+1/16"	+1/8"	+3/16"
+40 F	+3/16"	+1/4"	+5/16"

Drainage and Ventilation

It is important to provide and maintain proper drainage and ventilation to ensure the longevity of your deck. Consideration for drainage and ventilation should be included during the planning phase of your project.

Drainage

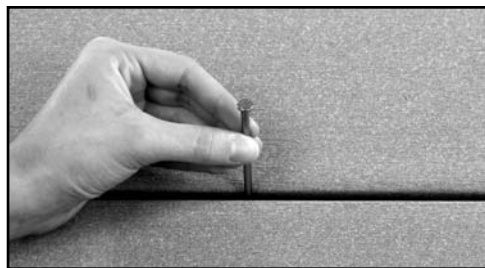
When installing your deck, it is important to consider the crowning and pitch of your deck substructure. We recommend a minimum of 1/16" slope per foot away from the structure to allow for proper drainage.

Ventilation

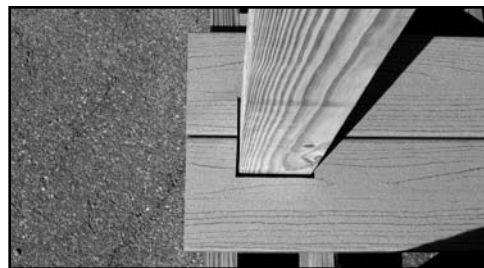
An 8" -12" minimum clearance is recommended from the bottom of the deck joist to the ground when installing a low or ground level deck with at least two sides open for ventilation purposes. This minimizes the possibility of uncontrolled expansion/contraction and mold or mildew growth because of high humidity under the deck.

Gapping (Deck Board Spacing)

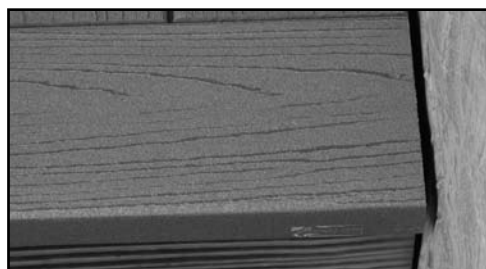
Proper gapping is necessary to allow for drainage, ventilation and natural expansion /contraction of the boards and substructure supporting the deck.



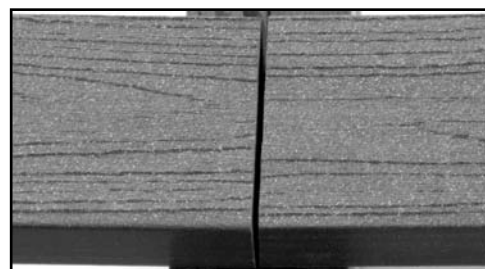
Space boards at a minimum 3/16" from side-to-side and minimum of 3/8" for dock applications.



3/16" spacing from post's edge to deck boards is necessary to reduce chance of cracking due to deck expansion.



Allow a minimum of 1/4" spacing from the house to the edge of your deck.



Longitudinal gapping is required for joining Bestdeck boards end-to-end. (refer to chart on p. 3)

Joist Spacing

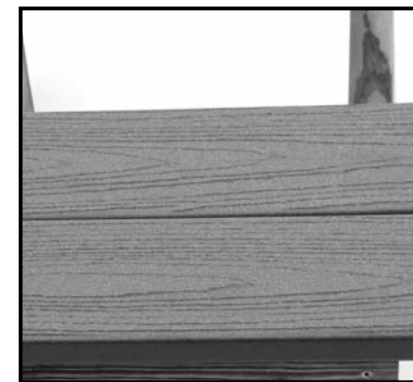
Accurate joist spacing for your substructure is required for proper installation of Bestdeck. Once again, planning is important because Bestdeck16 and Bestdeck24 require different joist spacing. Also joist spacing will differ depending on the angle of the boards to the joist and the pattern or design you are creating. (Refer to framing tips section.)

Bestdeck16. The joist spacing on your substructure should not exceed 16" on center for typical residential applications when the boards are 90° to the joists, 14" on center for boards installed on a 60° angle, and 12" on center for those installed on a 45° angle.

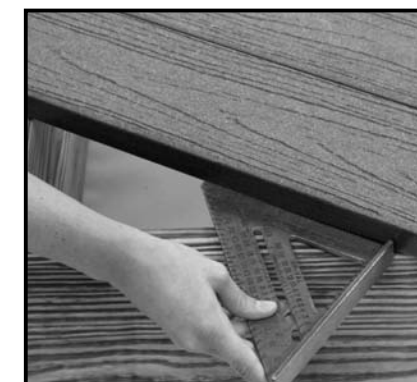
Bestdeck24. The joist spacing on your substructure should not exceed 24" on center for typical residential applications when the boards are 90° to the joist, 16" on center for boards installed on a 60° angle, and 12" on center for those installed on a 45° angle.

Span Requirements

	90° Angle	60° Angle	45° Angle
Bestdeck-16 (5/4x6)	16"	14"	12"
Bestdeck-24 (2x6)	24"	16"	12"



90° Angle



60° Angle



45° Angle

* Bestdeck decking must only be used for non-structural applications. Some conditions will require an engineering inspection and/or reduced spans. Always consult local building codes prior to installation.

Installation

The Basics

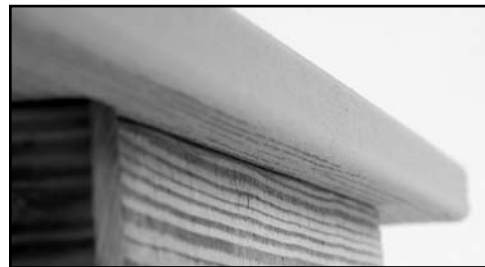
Tools Bestdeck boards cut and drill like wood; you can use standard woodworking tools when installing your deck. Some basic tool recommendations include: circular saw, cordless driver, carpenter square, chalk line, spacing tools, tape measure, and #7 Smart Bit. It is important to note that some colored chalk lines are permanent; we recommend using white chalk.

Cutting Use sharp tools and cut slowly. For best results and to prevent tearing use a minimum of 18-20 carbide tooth blade.

Drilling We recommend pre-drilling boards; keep the drill straight and level while drilling all the way through the profile to ensure that both holes line up vertically.

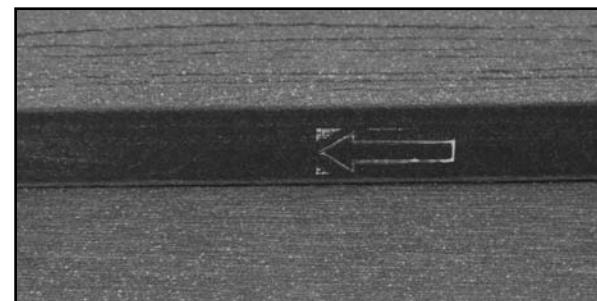
Sanding When necessary, use medium-grain sandpaper, sanding lightly in the direction of the grain. Follow the arrows on the side of the board to determine grain direction. *(Refer to directional brushing section below.)*

Cantilevering Overhang For best results, a Bestdeck board should not extend beyond the edge of the deck frame more than 2", as shown below.



Directional Brushing

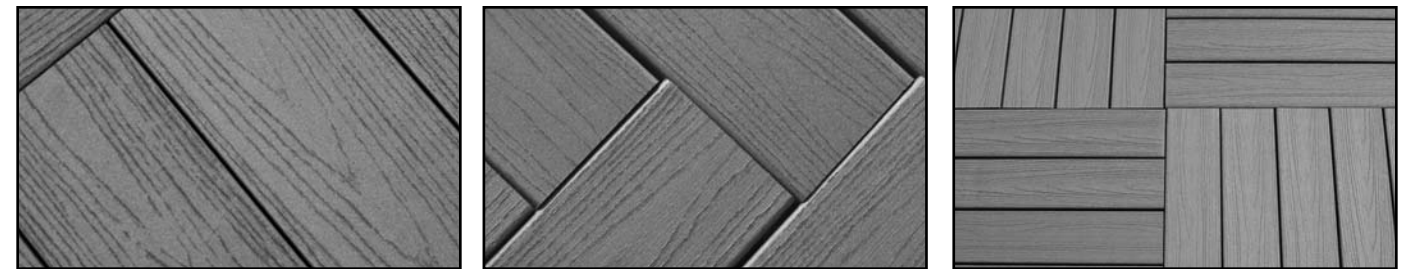
Bestdeck's wood grain and brushed finishes are directional. To achieve a uniform appearance, install all the boards in the same direction using the white arrow label on the side of the board as a point of reference.



Planning your Deck Design

Careful planning of your deck design is essential when installing your deck. Prior to installation, take time to plan out your desired deck pattern to maximize the beauty of your design and avoid exceeding overhangs and unsightly abutment joints.

Different deck surface patterns are pictured below. It is important to note that the pattern you choose will determine how you frame your deck. *(Refer to framing tips below.)*



Picture Frame pattern

Herringbone pattern

Basketweave pattern



Bulls Eye pattern

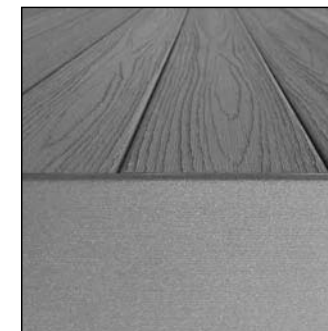
Combo pattern

Parallel pattern

**We strongly recommend avoiding abutment patterns to reduce the aesthetic impact of expansion and contraction. If this is not possible, proper gapping and the use of a double joist are critical (refer to gapping section on p. 4).*

Framing Tips

Proper blocking and support must be considered in framing your deck to allow for adequate support. Your deck frame is dependent on the deck pattern that you choose. See some important framing tips below.



Bestdeck Fascia. Use Bestdeck Fascia to conceal framing and Bestdeck's hollow core.



Framing for a picture frame pattern. Blocking should allow for proper span *(refer to joist spacing section)* and for minimum 3/4" attachment from the ends of the boards. *(refer to fastening section.)*



Framing for a herringbone pattern. Note the off set of the double joist to allow the first deck board to run past the rim joist.

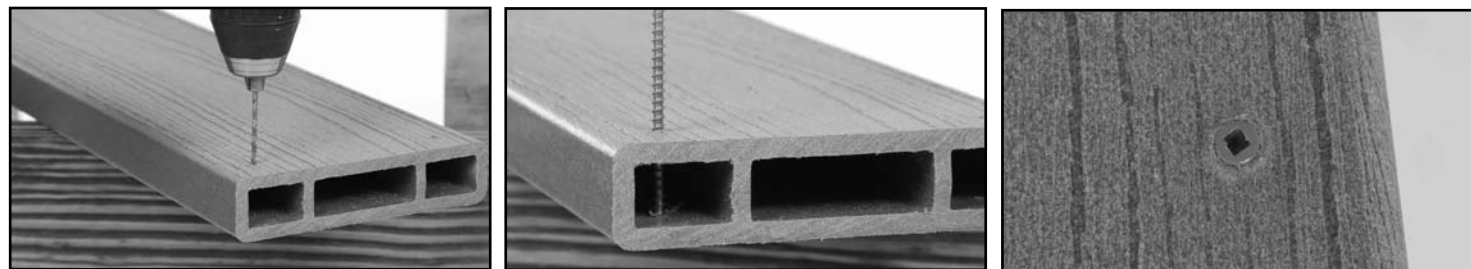


Framing for a basketweave pattern. Every change in direction requires a double joist to allow for proper attachment.

Fastening

Use Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws or Bestdeck Hidden Fastener Clip with Screws. Both these fastening systems have been engineered specifically for use with Bestdeck Composite Decking. Failure to use Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws and/or Bestdeck Hidden Fastener Clip with Screws will void the warranty.

Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws



Drill a 3/32 pilot hole straight through, keeping 3/4" from the ends and edge. Use 2 screws per floor joist.

Drive Bestdeck Hollow Core Screw flush with surface using #1 drive bit included.

Important: Do Not Overdrive!

* For best results use #7 Smart Bit, which pre-drills and countersinks in one step.

Bestdeck Hidden Fastener

Please be sure to read these instructions—as well as the full installation guide—thoroughly before beginning the installation. All instructions available at www.bestdeck.net.

Tools required: Drill, tin snips and marker.

- Place the deck board on the deck framing where it is to be attached. With a marker, draw lines on the underside of the deck board where it comes in contact with each joist. For convenience, each line should be drawn on the same side of the joists. If the deck board comes in contact with a ledger board, draw a line along the edge of the ledger board as well. See Fig. 1
- Turn the deck board upside down and place the short flange of the fastener perpendicular to the board along the line you drew on the bottom surface. ****Make sure the fastener is not placed over the line****. The long flange of each fastener should face in the direction of the joist you traced. See Fig. 2
- For most installations, fasteners will need to be trimmed only for the first row installed because a ledger board, or fascia, often obstructs this course. Use tin snips to remove any material that would interfere with the ledger board or fascia. See Fig. 3. Unless posts or blocking are encountered, you should not have to trim fasteners again until the final row.

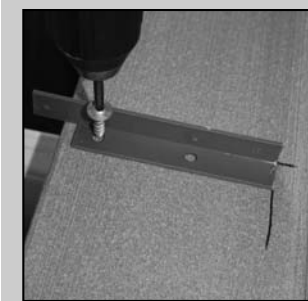


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

4. Place the trimmed fastener back into position on the bottom surface of the deck board. Align the fastener with the line that was drawn for the joist and ledger board. The front tab of the long flange should extend beyond the front edge of the deck board. (Remember that the deck board is upside down during this step.) See Fig. 4

5. While centering the fastener on the back of the board, attach the shortest part (large holes) of the flange of each fastener with two 14x1 hex-head self-piercing screws on the outer most two holes ****ONLY USE MIDDLE HOLE FOR FIRST AND LAST BOARDS, CUSTOM NOTCHES, ETC.**** See Fig. 5

6. Turn the deck board right side up and place it into position with the long flange of the fasteners next to the joists. See Fig. 6 Set the preferred spacing gap between boards using a consistent spacer, i.e. a nail. (See “Gapping” in the Bestdeck installation guide). The rear tab of each fastener should extend under the previously installed deck board. The front tab should be next to the joist.

7. While applying pressure on the top of the board, attach the front tab with ONE 7x1 1/4 screw. See Fig. 7 ****Be sure that the deck board is in contact with the joist while attaching the fastener****. The back tab is held down by the previously installed deck board. (The middle and rear holes of the fasteners are not used.)

The final attachment of the first board will vary depending on location:

- If the first board is at the outside of the deck, the deck board can be fastened to the ledger board with screws that are driven up at angle through the ledger board and then into the bottom of the deck board. Be careful not to let the screws penetrate the upper surface of the deck board, or
- If the first board is next to the house, reach under the deck board and place a screw in the middle hole of the fastener.

Last Row:

You may need to trim the fasteners in the same manner as the first row.

- For installations that begin at a structure and work outward, the outside edge of the last deck board can be fastened to the ledger board with screws that are driven up at an angle through the ledger board and then into the bottom of the deck board. Be careful not to let the screws penetrate the upper surface of the deck board.
- For installations that begin at the outside edge of the deck and end at a structure, the inside edge of the last deck board may need to be fastened to the ledger board with Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws from above.

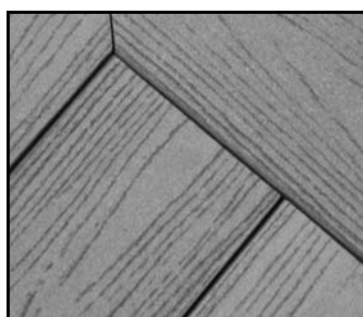
NOTE: If “picture framing” the deck, fastener clips can be installed on the outside joist to secure the exterior deck board. These fasteners can then be covered with fascia for a finished look. See Fig. 8

Helpful Tips:

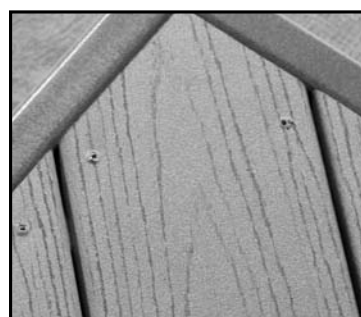
- Be certain that the deck board is resting on the joist when attaching the fastener to the joist.
- Any blocking that will interfere with the fasteners should be notched.
- For a high quality deck, always use dry building materials.
- Store decking in a flat and level position prior to installation.
- Be sure to read the full installation instructions available at www.bestdeck.net.

Concealing Bestdeck's Hollow Core

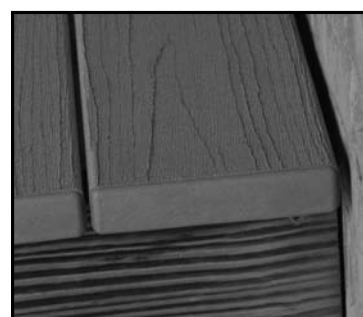
To conceal Bestdeck's hollow core design, design your deck using a horizontal picture frame pattern, a vertical picture frame pattern or use Bestdeck End Caps.



Horizontal Picture Frame



Vertical Picture Frame



Using Bestdeck End Caps

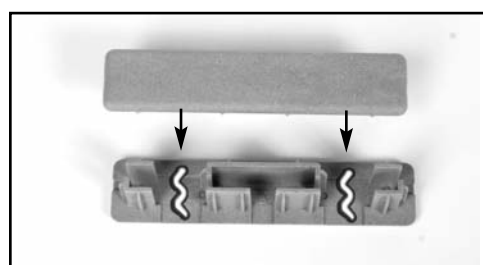
Installing Bestdeck Fascia

Attach fascia to the rim joist using two screws spaced no further apart than 16" on-center. Fasten the fascia from one end to the other or from the center out to each end. Never fasten the fascia from both ends to the center. Leave a 1/8" space between the fascia ends where two pieces meet or wherever a piece meets a solid surface (i.e., a corner or a building wall) to allow for expansion of the material.

If gluing is desired, a silicone or pliable construction adhesive is recommended.

Installing Bestdeck End Caps

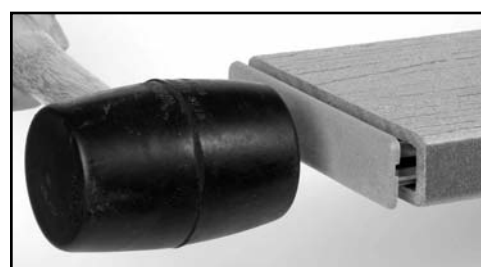
Bestdeck End Caps conceal Bestdeck's hollow core to create a more finished look. They are available in Nantucket Gray, Chesapeake Sand and Sedona Red.



Spot apply recommended adhesive (silicone or comparable).



Do not block drainage hole. Make sure the drainage part of the end cap is on the bottom.



Insert Bestdeck End Cap to cover the board's hollow profile, tapping lightly with a rubber mallet to affix.



Finished cap.

Everyday Care and Maintenance

To maintain the beauty of your Bestdeck, regular cleaning is recommended. In most cases, soap and water will maintain the appearance of Bestdeck products. How frequently you clean your deck is dependent on a variety of factors including, deck location, deck surroundings and climate.

Rust, Ground-in Dirt and Grime

Use a cleaner that contains Phosphoric Acid to remove rust or difficult dirt stains. Commercial pressure washers can be used to remove ground-in dirt and mold or mildew (test with a low PSI first). Always pressure wash using cold water and maintain a safe distance (at least 12" away) from the deck to prevent damage.

Mildew

To prevent the buildup of airborne pollutants that can cause mold and mildew, wash your deck periodically using conventional deck washers or cleaners that contain Sodium Hypochlorite.

Spot Stains

For grease or oil stains, use a degreasing agent along with a scrubbing sponge as soon as the spill occurs. If the stain has set, you may use a fine sandpaper and sand lightly in the direction of the grain. The sanded area will weather back naturally.

Scuffs and Abrasions

These will fade naturally through normal weathering.

Ice and Snow

Use calcium chloride or rock salt to melt ice and snow. Be cautious when removing ice or snow from your deck; some tools may damage the surface of your deck.

*After installation, your Bestdeck product will lighten somewhat due to normal weathering. This natural color change enhances the beauty of your deck and its wood appearance. The color change is dependent on exposure to sunlight and other environmental factors. Please note that color change is not covered by the warranty.

20 Year Limited Warranty

Bestdeck LLC (hereinafter “Bestdeck”) warrants to the original consumer purchaser that, for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of original consumer purchase, under normal use and service conditions, Bestdeck products shall not check, split, splinter, peel, rot or suffer structural damage from termites, insects or fungal decay.

If the product fails to conform to this warranty, Bestdeck in its sole discretion shall either replace the defective product or refund the portion of the purchase price paid by the original consumer purchaser for such defective product. In no event shall Bestdeck be liable for labor, installation, reinstallation, freight, taxes or any other charge related to defective product. Bestdeck’s total liability hereunder shall never exceed the actual purchase price paid by the original consumer purchaser for such defective product.

Coverage

Warranty coverage is as described in detail below:

Number of Years From date of original purchase to date of claim	Percentage of purchase price of products found to be defective for which Bestdeck, LLC will be responsible.
0 - 5 years	100%
More than 5 years but less than 6	75%
More than 6 years but less than 7	70%
More than 7 years but less than 8	65%
More than 8 years but less than 9	60%
More than 9 years but less than 10	55%
More than 10 years but less than 11	50%
More than 11 years but less than 12	45%
More than 12 years but less than 13	40%
More than 13 years but less than 14	35%
More than 14 years but less than 15	30%
More than 15 years but less than 16	25%
More than 16 years but less than 17	20%
More than 17 years but less than 18	15%
More than 18 years but less than 19	10%
More than 19 years but less than 20	5%
More than 20 years	0%

Registration

In order to be able to make a claim under this warranty, the original consumer purchaser must first activate this warranty within sixty (60) days of purchase of the product by filling out and mailing the Bestdeck Warranty Registration Card to Bestdeck, LLC, P.O. Box 245, Preble, NY 13141. Ask your dealer for a copy of the Bestdeck Warranty Registration Card.

Residential Only

This warranty does not apply to Bestdeck products used in commercial or industrial structures. This is a residential warranty only. Bestdeck is not responsible for any misapplication of its products, intentional damage or damage caused from misuse or abuse of its products.

Transferability

This warranty is not transferable.

Limitations

This warranty shall not cover defects or damage resulting from (A) improper installation of the product and /or failure to abide by Bestdeck installation guidelines, including but not limited to proper installation of joists or other accessories, proper gapping, and spacing; (B) failure to use the Bestdeck Hidden Fastener Clip With Screws and/or the Bestdeck Hollow Core Screws when installing the product; (C) use of product in an application not recommended by Bestdeck’s guidelines and/or applicable building and safety codes; (D) movement, distortion, collapse or settling of the ground or supporting structure on which product is installed; (E) incorrect design of the structure; (F) changes in surface color resulting from chalking, fading, soiling or staining from foreign substances (i.e. dirt, grease, oil, etc.); the degree to which weathering occurs will vary depending on air quality, the building location and other local conditions over which Bestdeck has no control; (G) color variations between products of the same color name; (H) improper handling, storage, abuse or neglect; (I) structural shrinkage or distortion of the property structure; (J) impact of foreign objects, fire, lightning, hurricane, tornado, windstorm, earthquake, hail or other acts of God; (K) damage attributed to atmospheric pollutants; (L) harmful chemicals and pesticides; (M) stains from any source, mold and mildew accumulation; (N) your failure to provide reasonable and necessary maintenance of the products; (O) scorching, discoloration, warping or distortion due to exposure to excessive heat sources; (P) any other causes beyond our reasonable control.

If for any reason you believe the decking is defective prior to installation do not install. Bestdeck is not responsible for claims arising from installation of visibly defective product.

Other Limitations

Due to normal weathering, replacement products may differ in color from products originally installed.

We reserve the right to discontinue or change any design or color of any of our products at any time and without notice or liability. If, for any reason, products of the type originally installed are no longer available from us at the time you make a warranty claim, we may substitute another products determined by us to be of comparable quality and price.

THIS FOREGOING WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ANY AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OR MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Some states do not permit limitations on the duration of implied warranties or exclusions or limitations of incidental or consequential damages. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights, which vary from state to state

Submitting a Warranty Claim

Purchaser must submit his/her claim in writing to us within the warranty period and within a thirty (30) day period after the alleged defect is discovered. The claim must be submitted together with the warranty registration, the original purchase invoice indicating date of purchase, picture of the defective Bestdeck product, and a detailed written description. All claims should be mailed to:

Bestdeck, LLC
P.O. Box 245
Preble, NY 13141