

INSTALLATION  
MANUAL



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Decking

Planchers  Bellefeuille

# EXOTIC WOOD DECKING INSTALLATION MANUAL



**Before beginning to install Planchers Bellefeuille exotic wood decking, the consumer must carefully read all following instructions to ensure full understanding of the requirements and steps to be followed for proper installation.**

## WARNINGS

If you have any doubt as to the quality of the product, do not install it. The warranty will cover the replacement of defective materials only if such materials have not been installed or otherwise altered.

Before proceeding with the installation, you must inspect your products to make sure that they are consistent with your order with regards to species, dimensions, color and quantity. If everything is accurate, let the wood acclimatize for a period of 72 hours on the site where it will be installed. It should not be left in direct contact with the ground: it is essential to leave a space of 6-inch minimum under the product so as to allow for air circulation. It is recommended that the product be protected during storage.

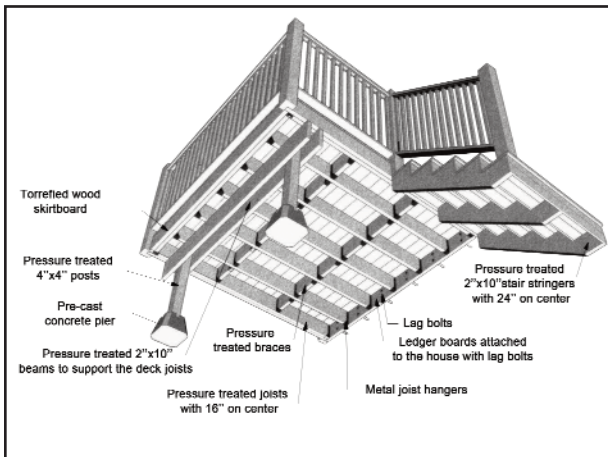
**Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in void warranty.**

## STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS (DECKS AND PATIOS)

\*\*\* Any structural construction defect may result in disclaimer of warranty \*\*\*

### Structural components include:

- Ground, its consistency, water drainage and levelling;
  - It is the consumer's sole responsibility to verify the ground consistency and water drainage;
  - Levelling the ground and installing a geo-membrane as well as a layer of stones is recommended for proper draining and to ensure a clean and properly ventilated substructure.
- Ground anchoring by means of in-ground devices (sonotubes, deck piers) or on-ground devices (concrete slabs, concrete legs, deck blocks);
  - It is strongly recommended to use ground anchoring devices for an exotic wood deck. Many factors must be taken into account and it is the consumer's best interest to obtain thorough information on the subject.
- Supporting posts (for patios and other elevated projects);
  - Supporting posts must be sufficient both in amount and in dimensions to support the project and ensure its stability;
  - Ascertain strong anchoring as well as good bracing if necessary.
- Beams;
  - Beams are often made of laminated timber wood and are installed on and propped up against the posts. Their purpose is to support the joists;
- Joists, end joists and spacers;
  - Joists form the base of the deck;
  - Proper dimensions are 2" x 10", 2" x 8";
  - They should be installed using metal hangers;
  - For increased strength and stability, joists should be installed at 16" intervals with spacers;
  - Complete the installation with end joists and if necessary anchor them to the wall of the house.
- Staircase stringers.
  - Pre-cut pressure treated wood stringers can be bought from hardware stores;
  - For a better distribution of the steps, constructing them on site is however recommended;
  - Stringers dimensions should be sufficient (2" x 12", 2" x 10")
  - It is strongly recommended to install the stringers at intervals of 24" maximum to ensure the stability of the project.



## DECKING INSTALLATION (EXOTIC WOOD)

The suggested wood species for exotic wood decks are:

- Ipé;
- Cumaru;

Other exotic wood species are available on special order. The recommended thickness is 1"; some species can however accept a lesser thickness;

The width of the covering plate is generally 5 1/2";

### Before installing:

- Verify wood quality (refer to the warranty);
- Arrange the lengths so as to minimize the number of joints, and properly distribute them;
- Make sure that the structure is strong, stable and aligned;
- In some cases, boards are delivered in extra-long format and are roughly cut, so board ends trimming is to be expected;

### During installation:

- Begin installation by installing the perimeter boards;
- If the patio is against a house wall, it is preferable to start installing the patio on the side opposite to the wall and continue towards the wall. This will enable you to rip the last board and if needed hide its edge with a moulding;
- Make sure the boards are aligned;
- The boards should be installed with their best face exposed. Also make sure that they are placed bark side up (larger age rings towards the top) to prevent warping;
- Fasten the boards with the selected or required fasteners. Screws require pre-drilling, especially at board ends;
- Butting is done by trimming the boards at a 90° angle;
- Joints should be placed vis-à-vis the joists;
- Apply a sealant on board ends;
- For cumaru, we recommend gluing the boards to the joists with polyurethane-based glue.

### After installation:

- In order to preserve the beauty of the wood, it is recommended that a coating be applied. As any other kind of wood, exotic woods may turn grey with exposure to sunlight.
- Use Penofin Hardwood Formula products (specifications and application instructions will be provided upon request).

## INSTALLING THE STEPS

- Make sure the stringers are solid, stable, level, and aligned;
- Make sure you have enough stringers; intervals should be of 24" maximum;
- Also make sure that the stringers are designed so that all steps are of the same height and width;
- We recommend that the steps be built from two standard decking boards in order to obtain 11 " wide steps.
- Make sure you install the boards best face-up, while taking the wood larger age rings into account;
- Fasten the steps properly to the stringers, and consider installing risers if necessary;
- Protect against UV-rays as soon as possible in accordance with manufacturer's instructions to preserve the beauty of the wood.



## MOULDINGS AND PATIO SKIRT

- The skirt encloses the space under the patio and hides its structure while providing a storage area;
- An access door is often installed;
- The structure of the skirt is made of the same wood as the patio, with 2" x 3" or 2" x 4" boards;
- The skirt can be made from torrefied wood siding or decking boards;
- If you are building your own torrefied wood skirt, please refer to our *EXTERIOR CLADDING INSTALLATION MANUAL*;
- Ensure proper ventilation under the patio.
- A minimum 4" space should be left between ground and skirt base.



## FINISH AND MAINTENANCE

In order to preserve the beauty of the wood, it is recommended to apply a coating. Penofin Hardwood Formula oil coat is recommended. Penofin products are available from our store. To make sure that your product retains its original aspect, we therefore recommend that this coating be applied.

Some of the products available from our company can even be pre-treated. All board joints should be sealed with these products prior to being installed.

As for any outdoor project, dirt build-up may occur. Also, horizontal surfaces will be more exposed to weather conditions and to wear. Regular cleaning may be required. Simply use a water hose or a gentle cleanser. Do not use a pressure washer or a solvent.

Most UV-rays treatment product manufacturers are reluctant to provide a comprehensive warranty on their products for horizontal or wear-prone surfaces such as decks. Erosion will wear down the recommended products, and in order to preserve the beauty of your patio, it is advised that a coating be applied approximately once a year. Prior cleaning of the surface is required.

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