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## **“Grooved” decking; “Hidden” fasteners: Comments-**

**In recent years, there have been remarkable improvements in the design of hidden and mechanical fasteners for deck boards. Some – but not all – of these products are worthy of consideration when designing and building a deck.**

**Your choice of fasteners, and the manner in which you utilize them, can determine the success and quality of your deck installation.**

**Historically, the broadly accepted best practice for fastening hardwood decking has been to face screw boards with 316-grade stainless steel screws that are made specifically for decking. (Download our Decking Installation Guidelines for more expansive comments and suggestions.)**

**Should you wish, instead, to use any sort of “deck clips,” or hidden fasteners, select them with great care, and follow all the manufacturer’s instructions.**

**There are numerous types and designs of fasteners available for purchase. Some do not effectively anchor deck boards to the substructure of the deck. **THOSE THAT** screw at an angle into the edges of the deck boards (often through grooves milled into the edges), and pass directly into the framing joists perform best. (We have seen good results using the “Ipe Clip” product, or others of similar design.)**

These types of fasteners are generally best used by qualified deck builders who have successfully employed them in previous applications.

When using hidden fasteners, you must be careful to follow all other proper installation procedures, especially those for clearance (above grade), ventilation, and gapping between boards. Proper coating of deck boards – with a penetrating oil – is also essential for best performance. Note that as boards become thinner and/or wider, they are more prone to “movement” and cupping. 4” deck boards are more stable than 6” deck boards.

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If you are uncertain about the use of hidden fasteners, contact the manufacturer for assistance. Or, contact us via our website prior to purchasing your fasteners.

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