



TONGUE AND GROOVE INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Important Notes:

All Blue Star Tongue and Groove Products

Blue Star tongue-and-groove products are traditional profiles, comparable to those made with Douglas fir, cedar, Eastern white pine, or yellow pine. In most cases, our products should be installed using standard practices for analogous products made with traditional materials. If you are unsure about any aspect of your project, consult a contractor, your lumber dealer, or contact Blue Star.

- Installation methods may vary between interior and exterior applications.
- Some profiles are reversible and may be installed with either face exposed.
- Common applications include:
 - Porch flooring
 - Siding
 - Soffits
 - Ceilings
 - Paneling

All products are kiln dried and manufactured with a built-in expansion allowance at the joint. However, wood will always respond to changes in temperature and humidity. Installers may choose to slightly space boards –especially when installing with a v-edge or bead exposed.

Always install in moderate temperature and humidity.

Finishing Requirements

All T&G products must be sealed to prevent moisture absorption.

- Apply finish evenly to all faces, sides, and ends
- Use a finish appropriate for the application
- Consult a finishing professional if needed.

Tongue and Groove Porch Flooring

Blue Star porch flooring is designed as an alternative to traditional Douglas fir porch flooring, and should be installed and maintained the same as Douglas fir. Use only for covered, exterior porches. Do not use for interior flooring or exposed decking (no roof covering).

Boards should be installed:

- Butted tight, side-to-side and end-to-end
- Square face up (if using a reversible profile with v-edge on one face)

Storage and Handling

Your lumber will arrive **clean, dry, and ready to use**—keeping it that way is important.

- Store boards flat and off the ground
- Keep them clean and dry
- Avoid leaving boards loose or exposed to weather

Site Design & Ventilation

Good ventilation is critical for long-term performance.

- Elevate at least 18 inches above grade
- Design for free airflow beneath the porch

If using skirting, choose open materials like lattice to allow cross ventilation. Avoid enclosing the porch completely, and be sure to vent stair risers as well.

Proper drainage matters too. Grade the soil away from the structure and ensure water flows away easily—this helps prevent moisture from being absorbed into the underside of the boards.

Framing & Joist Spacing

- Standard framing is 16” maximum on center, but 12” on center is recommended for added strength and reduced waste.
- If you’re installing boards at an angle, always frame 12” on center.
- Leave 1/2" expansion gap at walls/structures
- Pitch porch 1/4"/foot away from house
- Follow all local building codes
- **Always follow local building codes** when installing any building material.

Fastening

- Porch flooring is typically blind nailed. Nail above the tongue at a 45° angle, using 316-grade stainless steel, ring-shank flooring nails
- Penetrate ~1-1/2" into joists
- Avoid staples or cleats (may fail to penetrate pressure treated joists or framing)
- Optional: Apply a small amount of exterior-grade adhesive (e.g., polyurethane) at each joist

Finishing & Painting

Meranti porch flooring is designed to be painted, similar to traditional Douglas fir, but offers more durability and superior paint penetration without raised grain. Proper priming and painting are essential to prevent moisture intrusion, which can cause swelling, gaps, or buckling.

Step 1 – Prime all surfaces

- Use oil-based (preferably alkyd oil) waterproof primer, NEVER water-based primer
- Coat evenly on all faces, edges, and ends

Step 2 – Second primer coat

- Apply to bottom face only, Do not double-coat top face at this stage
- Option to coat sides/ends, but avoid buildup in T&G joints

Step 3 – Install boards using the above fastening recommendations

Step 4 – Apply a top coat of high-quality porch paint, ensuring compatibility with primer (cont.)

Finishing & Painting (cont.)

Additional requirements:

- Seal all cut ends immediately
- Apply extra coating to exposed ends
- Always follow manufacturer instructions when using any paint product

Penetrating oil deck finishes (Penofin, Cabot's, Messmer's, Sikkens, etc.) are NOT waterproof, they are water repellent. Film-forming finishes that DO waterproof (varnish, urethane, lacquer) are slippery when wet, messy to apply, and difficult to maintain because of UV degradation and uneven wear. **Porch paint remains the industry standard and most reliable long-term finish.**

Bottom Line

Blue Star tongue & groove products are designed to perform like traditional wood products—but long-term success depends on proper project design, installation, and finishing. **Build it right, let it breathe, and keep it sealed**—your porch will perform and last as intended.