

BB
DOCK INSTALLATION GUIDE

STRUCTURAL ABILITY

EPS lumber is not recommended for structural applications and should not be used as a frame on a dock, except when the dock rests on the ground. If you need structural lumber then use our fiberglass-reinforced board

JOIST SPACING

As a rule plastic needs about 25% more support than wood

Residential Use:

Plank Thickness	Recommended Joist Spacing
1" (5/4 x 6 board)	16"
1-1/2" (2 x 6 board)	24"

Commercial Use:

Plank Thickness	Recommended Joist Spacing
5/4 x 6	12"
2 x 6	16"

EXPANSION/CONTRACTION

Spacing between boards will remain constant, so use a pencil or large nail to determine spacing. The board does expand and contract along its length. A 12' length will expand and contract over a 100 degree swing in temperature up to .54"-that is .27 on each end of the board. Also, lighter colors do not heat up as much in sunlight and are therefore preferable when installing a dock in a very sunny location.

FASTENING

To withstand the expansion and contraction as well as to maintain a long lasting, beautiful looking dock, stainless steel deck screws should be used, preferably #10 x 2 1/2 or 3" long, square drive stainless steel deck screws. **Pre-drilling is not necessary when working with Bear Board.**

We recommend the use of either stainless steel or Counter-Snap screws.

BUTT JOINTS

When butting against any wall, fixed surface or other boards (if necessary), they should be securely fastened to the nailer or double joist with a gap allowing for expansion. The size of gap should be determined based on weather conditions at the time of installation – the closer the temperature is to the usual high temperature for the year, the smaller the gap. [Click here to print an expansion table.](#) The dock should be designed to minimize the butt joints. However, in the event that joints are required, a double joist underneath the butt joint should be used. Boards should be securely fastened with a row of screws on each side of the joint. Always keep dock boards out 3/8” from permanent structure.

RIP CUTTING

Two cuts must be taken in the event that a board must be ripped down. This is due to the difference in tension between the outer “skin” of the board and board’s center. For example, if a 4” board is needed, 3/4” should be ripped off of both sides of a 5-1/2” board.

ANTI-SLIP RESISTANCE

Make sure to inspect the lumber and turn the wood grain pattern upwards for maximum slip resistance.