

Tongue & Groove Porch Board Installation

Facts

- Flooring is intended for use as exterior porch flooring under fully covered porch applications.
- Flooring is kiln dried—**however**, if not handled correctly and is allowed to absorb moisture it might swell or expand. This may cause checking, cupping, splitting or warping.
- This flooring should be kept clean and dry at the job site. Stack the flooring flat, first put a sheet of plastic down, keep the product a minimum of 8" off the ground and fully covered prior to use.
- Prior to installation **seal all four sides and both ends with a clear, paintable sealant or oil based porch enamel.** A follow up coat of porch enamel is also recommended.
- Framing should slope slightly away from the house at ¼" per foot, to allow water to run off the porch.
- Boards will have minimal expansion and contraction when properly fastened to the substructure.
- Best to cut and install boards at the same time.
- When installing in cold temperatures allow 1/16" gap, otherwise keep butt ends and miters tight.
- Each board should be fastened no further away than 1" from the end of the board. All butt joints should be fastened close to the end of each board to a solid joist.

Installation

- Starter board installs with the groove towards the house fastened with a surface screw at each joist along the edge. Nail or screw the tongue edge at a 35° to 45° angle through the tongue into each joist.
- The angled screw through the tongue should be counter sunk at least 1/16" to avoid interference with the next board.
- Subsequent boards are installed by inserting the groove edge so that it fully engages the tongue on the previous board.
- Make sure all seams between boards are uniform.
- Repeat until the outer edge of the porch is reached.
- Rip the last board to size and fasten with surface screw at each joist, just as the starter board was.

Framing & Span Requirements

- Joists spacing—maximum of 16" on center. For 45° angles—12" on center.
- Additional blocking support is **required** for all load bearing columns and posts.
- Boards **must** sit tight on the joists. Shimming may be required to achieve this.

Fasteners

- Minimum size recommended - #7 x2" stainless steel trim head screw.
- Manual or pneumatic floor nailers will work as well.
- When using floor nailer use stainless steel 2" serrated T nails.
- Pre-drilling for fasteners is **not** necessary.
- Nail at the top of tongue between 35° and 45°

Care & Maintenance

- Clean boards with regular soap and water. Stubborn stains can be cleaned with diluted chlorine bleach solution (4:1 bleach to water)
- For best results, porch flooring should be primed on all sides with a good quality alkyd base primer

Note

- It is the sole responsibility of the installer to determine building code requirements and suitability of boards for specific application.
- It is best to consult an architect, engineer, or local building official prior to installation. Culpeper Wood Preservers is **not** responsible for the improper installation of our T&G Porch Flooring.