

# EverNew® LT

## Cellular PVC Decking

# STEP-BY-STEP

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR

## EVERNEW® LT CELLULAR PVC DECKING WITH LUMENITE™ TECHNOLOGY

Virtually maintenance free | Lifetime limited warranty

EverNew® LT Cellular PVC Decking is installed with the same skills and tools as natural wood, but there are some small yet important differences that must be maintained. Familiarize yourself before installation.

### HELPFUL HINTS

Read these instructions thoroughly before beginning the assembly.

- Use carbide-tipped multi-purpose blade for cutting (minimum of 40 tooth blade recommended).
- Do not lay vinyl components on abrasive surfaces.
- If any components are missing or defective, please call us at: **800-380-5323**.

## CertainTeed

### IMPORTANT:

ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY  
GLASSES WHEN CUTTING AND  
DRILLING PVC DECKING PRODUCTS.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### TOOLS REQUIRED

EverNew LT decking is easily installed with the same tools used for lumber. Carbide-tipped blades and bits are recommended for best results.

Apply end finish paint to any cut ends that will remain visible after installation.

### TIP

Make sure you have all the pieces you need to complete the job.

### IMPORTANT

**DECKING STORAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**  
Prior to installation material should be stored on a flat surface, supported every 24" and covered if original packaging is removed.

### RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

EverNew LT decking is intended for residential installations on sun decks, pool decks, docks, boardwalks, ocean walks and similar applications. CertainTeed cannot anticipate every possible installation and recommends that you consult an engineer, architect and/or building code official in your area to make sure that your design meets all locally applicable codes. For visual color consistency, all boards should be installed with molding pattern in same direction.

**Note:** EverNew LT deck boards are not reversible.

**Important:** EverNew LT decking must be installed on structural deck framing and properly gapped to allow for expansion, contraction and drainage. Do not attach planks directly to any solid surface or water-tight system such as sheathing, waterproof membranes, concrete, roof systems or patios. A minimum of six inches of continuous net free area under the deck surface is required for adequate ventilation on all decking applications. Install porch and deck material so air can circulate between adjacent members, to promote drainage and drying. Failure to follow these requirements voids warranty.

**Note:** Static – Dry and windy environments may create a temporary condition of static electricity, which will vary depending on climate and age of deck.

### Note for optimum decking appearance:

When dealing with butt joints or multi-chromatic colors, it is suggested you lay out or "rack" 10 or so rows of decking boards across the joists so that you can ensure butt joints are properly staggered and color variations are either randomly dispersed throughout or arranged in the desired pattern. Racking not only allows you to preview how the deck will look installed, but it also provides easy access to decking boards as you work.

# DECKING INSTALLATION

## GETTING STARTED

Careful planning of the finished deck layout will result in better-looking finished projects.

1. Joist location plays an important role in the safety of the deck itself, but may also affect the ease, method and price of your railing system.
2. Before starting, read the instructions of both the decking and railing systems planned for the project.
3. Remember that prefabricated rail systems often assemble faster than wood railing, but they are less flexible and do not assemble in the same way as wood rail systems. To enjoy the maximum benefit of prefabricated rail systems, it is important to construct the deck framing with the specific rail system in mind.
4. Thoroughly reading all instructions first will make for easier installations. Failure to do so may result in more difficult installations and may void warranty.

## FASTENERS

EverNew LT decking must be properly fastened to manage normal expansion and contraction. Surface fastening is best accomplished with finish head stainless steel screws, minimum #8 gauge, 2-1/2" long, with a 17° thread pitch. EverNew LT does not "mushroom" and requires no pre-drilling unless installation temperatures fall below 25° F.

**Deck Screw Fasteners:** We recommend 2-1/2" stainless steel fasteners. Install fasteners perpendicular to deck surface, not at an angle. Do not install fasteners within  $\leq$  to 1/2" of board edges, using two screws in every joist.

Check with your local fastener supplier for the availability of color match stainless screws.

Any use of unapproved fasteners, including biscuits or nails, may lead to product failure and will void the product warranty.

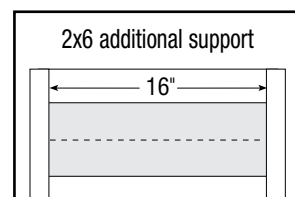
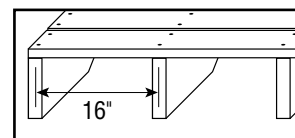
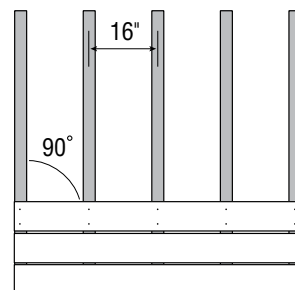
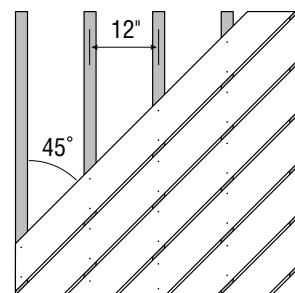
## JOIST SPACING AND SUPPORT STRUCTURE

EverNew LT decking does not require any special substructure, but consult local building codes for deck substructure requirements. EverNew LT decking must not be used as primary structural members. For best performance and visual effect make certain that the joists are level and secure prior to installing decking.

As a general rule, EverNew LT requires a maximum joist spacing of 16" on center, dropping to 12" on center when decking is installed diagonally. Maximum joist spacing is 16" on center for stair treads. Secure stair treads over and in contact with a treated pine 2x6, installed flat, not on edge, as under support, and secured with Simpson A23 approved connectors and 10d x 1-1/2" hot galvanized nails. Butt joints should be staggered, never placed side by side, and always installed over double joists.

**Perpendicular-to-Joist Installation:** 16" on center residential. Reduce on center spacing by 4" for 45 degree angle-to-joist installation.

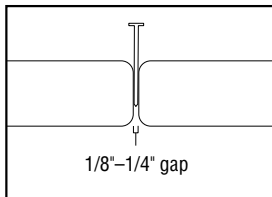
**Note:** Rail posts should always be fastened directly to the structural framing, never to the decking.



# DECKING INSTALLATION

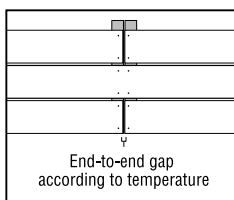
## GAPPING

EverNew LT decking is installed starting at the edge of the deck and working towards the house. EverNew LT decking should be installed with a side-to-side gap of 1/8" to 1/4" to allow for proper drainage. Proper flashing is required for any attached deck, and your contractor will determine the appropriate solution for your specific needs. Rail posts should always be fastened directly to the structural framing, never to the decking.



**Width to Width:** As with any decking material, width to width board gapping is essential for proper drainage and to take into account changes in dimension due to temperature. A gap of 1/8" to 1/4" will satisfy most installation conditions. A 3/16" gap is recommended.

**End to End:** During warm weather (70° F and above), planks must be butted tightly together before fastening with two screws on each joist. At temperatures below 70° F and above 32° F, butt joints loosely (1/32"). Below 32° F, leave a 1/16" gap at butt joints. This is a departure from the 1/4" gap most decking requires.



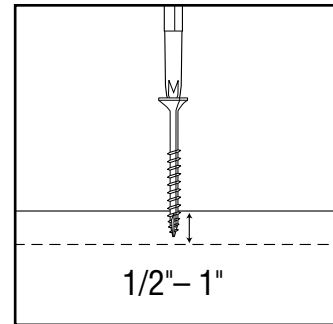
As with any decking, a double joist is required for proper fastening at butt joints. Pre-drilling is not normally required, but when working in very cold conditions — ambient temperatures below 25° F — you should probably consider it.

**Note:** Do not lay out or cut planks until you are ready to install them. This will ensure that measured dimensions haven't changed with overnight or other temperature swings.

## LAYING AND FASTENING THE DECK

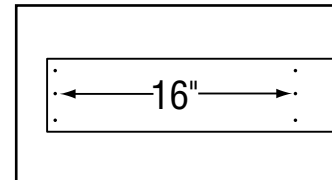
Position screws no closer than 1/2" from plank edges, using two screws in every joist. Maximum end and side deck board overhang is 1".

CertainTeed recommends specific fasteners, but comparable fasteners designed for use with cellular PVC and ACQ pressure-treated lumber may suffice, provided they are designed to restrict deck plank movement. Floating fasteners must not be used.



## FASCIA FASTENING

Fascia is intended as a non-structural covering for rim joists, stair risers, and stringers and is not suited for decking surfaces or structural applications. Fascia is fastened with a combination of screws and high-quality urethane/acrylic construction adhesive to prevent thermal buckling. Apply a zigzag bead of adhesive to the entire length of the back (smooth side) of the board, within two inches of the edges and ends. Install all fascia grain side out with grain peaks pointing in the



same direction for visual consistency. Screws should be installed at a maximum 16" interval, three screws across the face. Install with no gap between edges and ends in temperatures above 50° F. Leave 1/8" gap between edges and ends in temperatures below 50° F.

## DECK PILOT™ HIDDEN FASTENING SYSTEM (Patent Pending)

The Deck Pilot™ tool is designed exclusively for EverNew LT decking and offers contractors fast and easy installation. Deck screws (Deck Pilot uses a #8 x 1-5/8" ProTech Coated screw with a T15 driver) are installed at the proper angle and precise depth every time. And there is no need for extra hardware.



# DECKING INSTALLATION

## The Deck Pilot offers the following benefits:

- Speeds installation while providing hidden fastening without extra hardware
- Makes it easy to position fastener in the right spot and at the proper angle
- “Bit stop” ensures the screw is driven to exactly the right depth
- Foolproof design: A carpenter at any skill level can confidently operate the tool and install the decking properly and consistently
- Requires no expensive clips or any additional installation effort over face-screwing
- Firmly fastens both edges of each deck board to every joist with two 1-5/8" ProTech Coated screws, which reduces sagging and racking problems
- Fasteners are virtually invisible from above after they are driven
- Eliminates need for painted screws

- Allows for easy board replacement if required

**Important Notice:** The Deck Pilot™ hidden fastening system is engineered and tested to be AC-174 compliant for use exclusively with EverNew LT decking, screws and accessories. Use of the Deck Pilot with any other decking materials or fasteners carries a real risk of deck failure and CertainTeed prohibits all such installations.

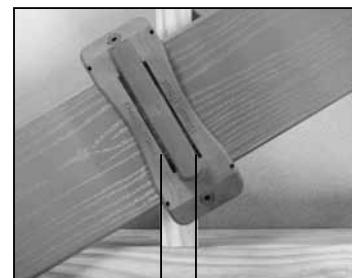
The Deck Pilot™ system provides an exceptionally strong and code-compliant hidden fastening system when these simple instructions are followed.

**Tools needed:** Driver drill with adjustable torque settings, #2 screw extractor and a Deck Pilot bit (#15 star drive bit). Proper EverNew LT decking installation requires maximum 16" on center joist spacing for perpendicular framing and 12" on center joist spacing for diagonal framing for all residential applications.

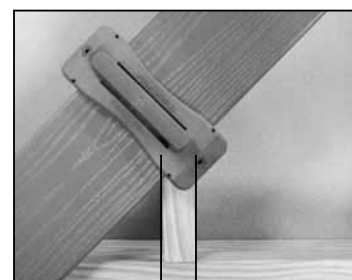
1. EverNew LT decking installs from the outer edge of the deck towards the ledger. Begin by positioning the starting deck board at the outside edge of the deck (away from the house), with a maximum overhang of 1 inch. Face fasten the board along its entire outer edge with minimum #8 x 2-1/2" face screws and not more than 16" on center.
2. Using the reference line under the bushing, align the Deck Pilot so the guide line is directly over the center of the joist on 90° applications.
3. On diagonal 30° or 45° applications, align the guide with the outside edge of the joist so that the screw penetrates the joist from the edge toward the center.
4. The Deck Pilot Bit is designed to precisely position the screws on both sides of the
5. Deck Pilot is designed to create a consistent 3/16" spacing between boards without additional spacers.
6. Fasten planks by advancing from one end to the other and never fasten the middle last.
7. The screw will penetrate the joist and countersink to the correct depth automatically.
8. Alternate securing the outside edge first, then the inside edge at each joint before moving the tool onward.
9. Slide the next board loosely against the previous course, allowing room to place the Deck Pilot over the board, then snug it tightly to the previous course.
10. Continue securing each course, alternating from the outside to the inside.
11. Continue installing boards until you reach the house wall. Face fasten the last board with minimum #8 x 2-1/2" face screws a maximum of 16" on center.

board without removing the tool. Drive until the flange on the bit just contacts the bushing. **Do not overdrive the screw.** When the flange contacts the bushing, **stop driving.** Minimize stripping by adjusting the torque on your driver to the lowest setting that fully drives the screws; replace driver bits as they become worn. Do not use “Impact” drivers.

12. Stripped screws can be removed with a #2 screw extractor.



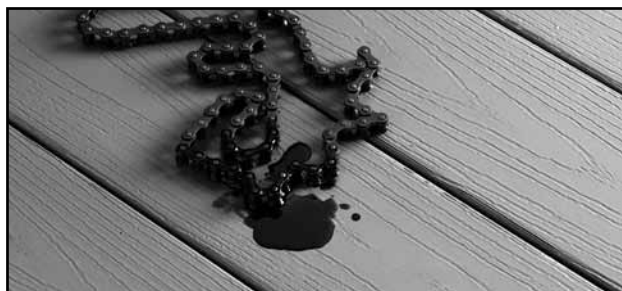
30 Degree Install  
Alignment Points



45 Degree Install  
Alignment Points

**Note:** Spacing guides such as Deck Mate™ or DECKIT™ are commercially available to assist in consistent 3/16" plank spacing. Many contractors make their own spacers. One technique is to cut 6" x 4" pieces of plywood, pre-drill a 1/8" hole, 2" from one end and drive a 20 penny common nail or #10 wood screw (both 3/16" diameter) about half-way, straight through the plywood. Position spacers on the boards no more than two feet from either side of the Deck Pilot and at both ends of the board.

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE



## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensure minimum 6" of ventilation under the deck and required spacing between decking boards.
- Improve drainage or grade soil to eliminate standing water under decks.
- Direct downspouts, downspout extensions and splash guards away from decks.
- Position dryer vents away from decks.
- Maintain a deck that is dry and clean.
- Clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year.
- Use extreme caution with pressure washers and use at pressures less than 1,500 psi at 12" above deck surface. Pressure washing is not recommended when mold/mildew are present on the deck.

- Keep debris out of gaps between the decking boards so rain showers can remove pollen and organic debris between cleanings.
- Minimize the use of wet mulch up against the deck structure.
- Items stored directly on top of the deck surface, such as flower pots, prohibit water evaporation and can cause some staining on the deck surface.

### Ventilation

Make sure there is adequate and unobstructed air flow under the deck to prevent excessive water absorption. Improve drainage or grade flat areas where standing water may gather. For decks with limited ventilation, 6" of clear ventilation is required between bottom of joists and fascia to grade.

### Mind the Gap

If the gap between decking boards is less than 3/16", organic debris such as leaves, seeds or pollen can settle on the deck and clog gaps. Water can pool, steeping organic debris that forms a "tea" or tannin which may stain your deck. This organic debris is a strong food source for mold. Keeping the gap clean is the easiest way to keep the deck clean. If gapping becomes clogged, use a garden hose, a spatula, putty knife or similar tool to remove debris.

### Clean Your Deck

Clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year to remove pollen, organic debris, dirt or stains. Generally, a broom or a blower will work better than a hose for removing scattered organic materials like leaves. For general cleaning, use soap and water or mild household cleaners.

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS (CONT.)

### Masonry Construction

Masonry construction performed on the surface of the decking material will cause a haze from the mortar-based products used. This can only be prevented with complete and secure coverage of the decking surface area during the construction phase or installation of the decking after the masonry construction phase. Like gypsum and other minerals, the ability to clean this type of haze will improve dramatically in about a year and usually results in its complete removal. A mild vinegar-based cleaning solution and CLR® (Calcium Lime and Rust Remover) is effective at removing mineral deposits. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Do not mix recommended cleaning products together as harmful chemical reactions could occur.

### Mold and Mildew

Mold and mildew are common environmental conditions. Molds grow on decaying organic material such as wood, leaf decay and pollen. Tiny and lightweight, mold spores travel easily through the air. Different climates experience varying degrees of these conditions depending on the amount of moisture and heat present.

To thrive, mold and mildew need air, water, elevated temperatures and a food source. There is no way to eliminate all these conditions in the environment. A wide variety of building materials including concrete, wood products, vinyl siding and many others are subject to potential mold growth.

To minimize mold on your decking, clean your deck as often as needed, at least twice each year. Climate conditions vary in different regions of the country and may necessitate more periodic cleaning. Removal of leaves, debris, and other organic materials that provide a food source for mold development is important. If mold is present on your deck, use soap and water to clean.

### Dirt and Grime

Dislodge accumulated dirt with a broom or by using soap and water and a non-metal scrub brush. Scrubbing in the direction of the grain is best. Thoroughly rinse off with a garden hose.

Skilled professionals may use a pressure washer with wide fan tips, at low pressures under 1,500 psi and at safe distances, 12" above deck. In the wrong hands, your deck can be damaged. Exercise extreme caution.

### Oil and Grease Stains

Speedy cleanup is best. To clean grease and oil stains that soap and water cannot remove, some all-purpose cleaners, such as Fantastik, will cut through grease and grime. Or use a commercial deck cleaner designed specifically for your type of decking. De-Solv-It Citrus Solution is effective in removing tar, asphalt, oil, grease and chewing gum. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations and test in an inconspicuous area prior to cleaning the entire deck.

### Salt and Calcium Chloride

Buildup of salt and calcium chloride from snow and ice removal is easily removed with enough water and perhaps a light scrub. Use a garden hose or sprayer. If using a pressure washer, use at low pressures under 1,500 psi and at safe distances, 12" above deck, to avoid damaging your deck. Never use METAL shovels or sharp edged tools to remove snow and ice on the surface of any CertainTeed decking product.

### Rubber Mats

Welcome mats or grill mats with a rubber or latex backing can mark your deck. The marks can be removed, but to avoid them, use colorfast woven rugs.

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