

QUESTIONS:

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My deck is only 8 years old and needs to be replaced. WHY DO DECKS FAIL SO FAST?

With conventional deck construction, nails are driven through the heart of the deck boards into wood support joists.

As wood shrinks, nails loosen and pop up, which is not only hazardous, but allows water to penetrate through the deck boards and into the support joists causing wood rot. No matter what kind of preservative you use, water seeps through nail holes into the wood, creating wood rot.

DECKMASTER[®]REG: Hidden Deck Bracket System protect the deck surface by eliminating the primary cause of deck failure - moisture penetration through exposed nail holes on the top of the deck surface. Even screwing does not eliminate the need to tighten the screws once the wood shrinks, and does not eliminate deck rot.

Other hidden fastening systems still penetrate the top of the deck board allowing for water seepage and deck rot. They also tend to work loose with the expansion and contraction of the wood, causing squeaks and loose boards. DECKMASTER[®]REG: holds the boards tight, and is the best in eliminating any surface penetration.

Your instructions say that if you have a hard to access spot, you should countersink, screw, and plug from the top. How do you plug?

It's easy. You just get a plug cutter bit (3/8" will do) and a 3/8" countersink bit. Pre-drill your hole with a 1/4" deep countersink. Cut plugs out of a scrap piece of wood and glue them into the countersunk holes. Sand off the excess

The brackets are shinny and sometimes create a glare from the gap. What can I do?

Before you install the brackets place the brackets on a piece of cardboard, and using a flat black Rustolium spray paint spray the tops of the brackets. The purpose of this is to eliminate the glare not add life to the bracket so you don't need any special preparation just be sure they are clean.

How do you attach the last board on a low level deck with no access underneath?

If vertical fascia is to be used, the easiest way is to toe a screw in from the side and then hide it with your fascia.

What if you are in a very tight spot and you cannot reach under to get a screw in?

The best solution is to countersink, screw, and plug from the top surface. On most decks it will not be necessary. The deck on our color brochure, which was quite complicated in design, required only six screws and plugs.

When do you recommend the stainless steel over the galvanized steel bracket?

The Stainless steel DECKMASTER[®]REG: Hidden Deck Bracket System should be used in any location where

corrosion is known to be a problem. Coastal areas that experience salt spray and fog , or chlorinated water around pools and spas, and boat docks are a natural application for the stainless steel DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Bracket System.

How would you replace a board, if necessary, after the deck is completed.

Where you have access, unscrew the board and screw in a new one. If there is no access remove the board and screw and plug the new one from the top. Taking a little extra time in selecting boards at the front end of a project can eliminate future problems.

How much coverage can be expected from each box of DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Bracket System?

If the joists are spaced 16" on center, each box of DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Brackets will fasten about 250 square feet of decking. If the joists are spaced 24" on center each 100 piece box will fasten about 350 square feet of decking.

Does the DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Bracket System take longer to install than other methods?

DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Brackets are faster to install than either clip systems or screw and plug systems. Skilled carpenters can install about 60 square feet of decking per man hour on a straightforward project.

If deck boards are random lengths can the DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Bracket System be used to splice the boards on 2X joists?

Yes. Simply cut a board width piece of the DECKMASTER[®]; Hidden Deck Bracket with tin snips and fasten it to the opposite side of the joist where the splice will occur. Some types and species of lumber may need to be pre-drilled, at the splice only, to prevent any splitting.