



## Installing DuraLife™ Decking Using the Step-Clip™ Hidden Fastening System.

1. Note: If utilized, the outer edge (Starter) and divider boards that run perpendicular to the main rows of deck boards will require additional framing and should be shimmed approximately 1/8" (3.2 mm) to match the crown of the adjoining boards and the thickness of the Step-Clip™ strips. These boards should be fastened every 16" (404mm) using two , #10 x 2-3/4" color-matched capped composite deck screws or the DuraLife™ / Cortex® color-matched plug system (Siesta and Starter profiles only).
2. Locate the first deck board at outer rim joist away from the house or structure and work towards the house. For outer edge board installation (Starter, Siesta, or MVP profile), do not overhang the board more than 1" (25 mm) widthwise or 2" (51 mm) lengthwise. For a 1" (25 mm) overhang, measure and mark a location 22" (559 mm) from the outer rim joist on the outer joists that run perpendicular to the rim joist and snap a chalk line across the entire width of the deck. Position the Step-Clip™ strips with one edge along chalk line and fasten the first row of strips to each joist with a 1-1/4" (32 mm) stainless steel or hot dipped galvanized ring shank roofing nail using 2 nails between each set of clips (located within 3/4" (19 mm) in from each clip and a total of 8 nails per each four board strip). Note: the side tabs on all of the strips should be orientated on the same side of the joists and flush against the joist to allow for linking subsequent strips together along each row of clips. Trim the overhang of the first row of Step-Clip™ strips flush with the outer rim joist. Slide the outer deck board securely into the first clip (ensure it is properly engaged in the groove of the board) and screw down the opposite, outer edge of the board at each joist location using color-matched, capped composite deck screws or the DuraLife™ / Cortex® color-matched plug system (Siesta and Starter profiles only) .
3. Once the first board has been installed into the outer Step-Clip™ strip and proper alignment has been confirmed (measured for "square" on joists), position the remaining Step-Clip™ strips and fasten until all of the joists have been covered or alternately install in four board increments. An interlocking tab is located at the end of each strip to allow for proper spacing along the length of each joist. The strip closest to house or structure will likely need to be trimmed and the final board fastened in a similar manner as the first board. Sharing Step-Clips™ between two inline boards is NOT allowed. "Sister" or add framing where butt joints occur then trim a single Step-Clip™ strip section to accommodate each board and attach separately to the additional framing.
4. Measure and cut each interior deck board to its required length and place one edge of the board into either side of the Step-Clip™ strip. Step down (or tap with a non-marring rubber mallet) on the opposite elevated edge of the board to secure it in place. You should hear an audible "click" sound as the clip engages with the groove on the edge of board. Repeat this process until all deck boards have been installed. Align and secure interior boards with composite deck screws or Cortex® color-matched plugs & screws located at one end of each board. (min. of 5/8" (16 mm) from board edge)

### Helpful hints:

- Store Step-Clip™ strips indoors before use. The strips install best between 40°F and 80°F (4°C and 27°C).
- A 15 degree coil roofing nailer or hammer is required to secure the strips to each joist.
- Use a non-marring rubber mallet to set the leading edge of the deck boards into the clips prior to stepping down on the opposite edge of the board. Tapping the boards at a 45 degree angle on the high edge works best.
- If "re-skinning" a deck, ensure that all joists are level to each other before installing the Step-Clip™ system. If not level, shim or shave joists as needed to get them within 1/8" (3.2 mm).
- Walking along joists and non-secured deck boards can be dangerous and is therefore not recommended.

**For more information, please refer to installation images on back of this sheet or visit [DuraLifeDecking.com](http://DuraLifeDecking.com)**



Snap a chalk line across the deck joists at a mark measured 22" (559 mm) (for 1" board overhang) from the outer edge or rim joist



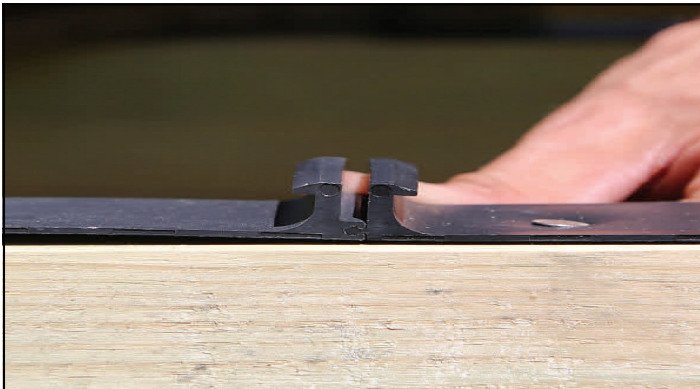
Position the end of each clip strip at chalk line and nail strips to each joist with side tabs tight against the same side of the joist .



Score and trim each clip strip flush with the outer edge of the rim joist to facilitate Starter board installation.



Slide starter board tightly into first set of clips and secure with composite deck screws along the outer edge of board.



Interlock clip strips along each joist and fasten with roofing nails. Clip strips at opposite end of deck will likely need trimming.



Strips may be installed on joists all at once prior to installing decking or one row at a time for elevated decks.



Position boards along each row of clips and step down or use a mallet on the board at each joist location to secure it into place.



Align and secure interior boards with composite deck screws located at one end of each board (min. of 5/8" (16 mm) from board edge)