



Usage Guidelines

DECKING & RAILING

Trex Wood-Polymer® lumber is suitable for a wide range of uses such as decking, railing and landscaping. Trex Wood-Polymer lumber is not intended for primary structural members such as load bearing columns, joists, stringers and beams. In most installations, a span of 16” on center using a minimum of 3 joists will provide excellent results. Please refer to the Trex Decking Span Chart for specific requirements or consult the Trex Wood-Polymer lumber building code listings (National Evaluation Service - NER-508 or ICBO ES ER-5747) or the *Trex Wood-Polymer* lumber evaluation reports (Canadian Construction Materials Centre – CCMC 13125-R).

IMPORTANT: Trex decking must always be installed properly gapped and directly on joists. Do not attach Trex decking to any solid surface or water tight system such as sheathing, waterproof membranes, concrete, roof systems, or patios.

Getting Started

- As with any woodworking project, protective clothing and safety glasses should be worn.

Handling Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber

- Trex Wood-Polymer lumber weighs more than wood and it's more flexible. Special care should be taken when handling. Do not attempt to lift similar volumes of Trex lumber as you do wood.
- When storing Trex Wood-Polymer lumber at the job site, be sure to place on a flat surface.
- When stacking units, supports should start at each end and be spaced 24” on center. Supports should line up vertically.

Cutting and Drilling Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber

- For best results, use carbide tipped blades and router bits.

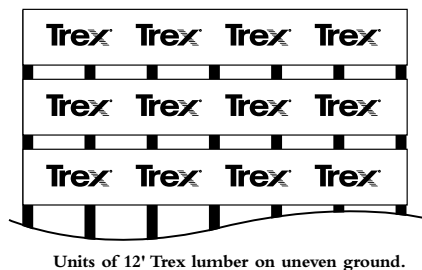
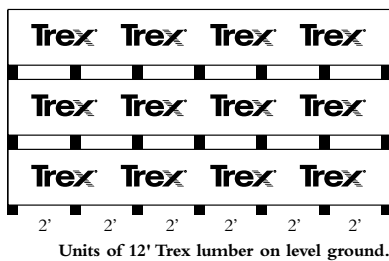
Trex Tip: Blades with fewer teeth (18-24 for 7 1/4” circular sawblade) work best.

- Trex Wood-Polymer lumber's workability is outstanding. Unlike wood, with Trex Wood-Polymer lumber you won't need to be concerned about grain direction or knots.
- When drilling large or deep holes, periodically lift the drill out of the hole to draw the shavings out.

Nailing and Fastening Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber

- Hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel nails or screws are highly recommended to take full advantage of the durability of Trex Wood-Polymer lumber.
- Per Evaluation Report CCMC 13125-R, Trex Wood-Polymer lumber decking must be fastened to the wood joists with fasteners conforming with Article 9.23.3.1. of the NBC 1995. The fasteners must have a corrosion protection coating or be made of stainless steel. The planks must be fastened with at least two fasteners per support, and the fasteners must be at least 76 mm long.
- Consult the supplier of the framing lumber for additional recommendations on fastener coatings as some preservatives can affect fastener life.
- More force is required to drive a nail into Trex Wood-Polymer lumber than regular wood. Hold nail while hammering until it is driven 1/2” to 3/4”. Hitting a nail with full force when it is not driven in may cause it to fly out. Nail guns work very well with Trex Wood-Polymer lumber. For cold weather installations or when using wood screws or lag bolts, pre-drilling may be necessary. Do not drill holes any larger than 3/4 of the screw/bolt diameter. Pre-drilling is generally not required for self-tapping or deck screws.

Trex Tip: Most screws will cause Trex lumber to "mushroom" up over the screw head. Simply tap down with a hammer to hide the fastener or pre-drill to reduce the "mushroom" effect.





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Trex Decking Span Chart

Maximum Recommended Center-to-Center Decking Spans.

Loading	Residential Decks, Light Duty Docks Residential/Daycare Playground	Commercial Decks, Boardwalks & Marinas	
	100psf (4.8kpa)	100psf (4.8kpa)	200psf (9.6kpa)
5/4 x 6	16" (400mm)	16" (400mm)	12" (300mm)
2 x 4, 6, 8	20" (500mm)	20" (500mm)	16" (400mm)
2 x 6 HS24*	24" (600mm)	24" (600mm)	16" (400mm)
2 x 6 Stairs*	12" (300mm)	12" (300mm)	12" (300mm)

Note: When installing Trex decking at a 45° angle to the joists, be sure to reduce the joist spacing by a minimum of 4". Trex must be fastened to a minimum of 3 joists.

* These products or applications are not part of the Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) Evaluation Report, CCMC 13125-R.

Gapping Trex Wood-Polymer® Lumber

- Trex products are engineered to last. Following proper gapping requirements will ensure your deck looks great year after year, preventing debris build up by facilitating drainage.
- Trex decking must also be gapped end-to-end, based upon the length of the board and the temperature at installation. For end-to-end gapping installations below 60°F - gap 3/16", above 60°F - gap 1/8".
- The required width-to-width gapping is 1/4". For below 40°F installations, 3/8" gapping is recommended.
- Trex decking must also be gapped 1/4" when decking is abutting a wall. For below 60° F installations, 1/2" gapping is recommended.

Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber Colors & Weathering Process

Trex Wood-Polymer lumber is available in five colors:

- Natural starts out in varying shades of tan and weathers to drift-wood grey hues when exposed to sunlight and water.
- Winchester Grey starts out in varying shades of brown and weathers to deep, rich grey hues when exposed to sunlight and water.
- Madeira is a reddish brown and weathers slightly while maintaining its reddish brown hue.
- Woodland Brown is a dark brown and weathers slightly.
- Saddle is a deep tan and lightens while maintaining its rich tones.

This weathering process is normal and does not harm the product.

Cleaning Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber

- Periodically clean out gaps between Trex boards with a flat tool to ensure proper drainage.

- For stains caused by mold, mildew, berries and leaves, conventional deck washes containing detergent and sodium hypochlorite work well.
- For rust stains, ground-in dirt and grime, use cleaners containing oxalic or phosphoric acid which are commonly available in home centers and hardware stores.
- For tougher stains, such as oil or grease, scrub with a detergent containing a degreasing agent as soon as the stain occurs.
- Refer to Trex Wood-Polymer Lumber Care and Cleaning Guide for more information.

General Construction Facts

- Trex Wood-Polymer lumber complies with all major model codes issued by BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI and ICC. For detailed information, please see NER-508 and ICBO ESER-5747.
- Trex Wood-Polymer composite lumber (1½x6, 2x4, 2x6, and 2x8 planks) can be used as exterior decking in combustible construction for light-duty applications, such as in residential occupancies, falling within the scope of Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) 1995 subject to the limitations described in CCMC 13125-R. Evaluation Report, CCMC 13125-R is available at your dealer or through CCMC's web site, <http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ccmc>.
- Reports NER-508 and ICBO ESER-5747 are available at your authorized Trex dealer.
- Trex Wood-Polymer lumber is not intended for use as columns, beams, joists, stringers, and other primary load bearing members.
- Refer to the decking span chart above or NER-508 or ICBO ESER-5747 for maximum allowable spans.
- Trex must be installed on level joists to ensure a level deck surface.
- Trex decking has not been evaluated by the CCMC for use as stair treads or where decay and termite protection is required.

APPENDIX: A

COLOR IDENTIFICATION

TREX® COLOR IDENTIFICATION

Trex products are easily identified through two different ways:

1. END TAGS ARE COLOR CODED.

There is a color-coded tag attached to every piece of Trex decking.



Natural



Winchester Grey



Woodland Brown



Madeira



Saddle



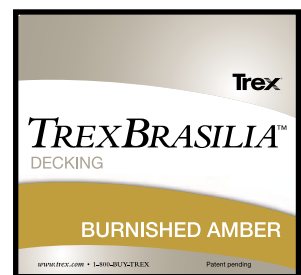
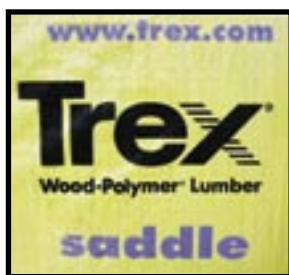
Brasilia™ Cayenne



Brasilia™ Burnished Amber

2. UNIT COVERS ARE COLOR CODED.

Every unit of Trex decking is wrapped in a cover for delivery.



3. COLOR CODES ARE PRINTED ON THE SIDE OF EACH BOARD.

To comply with our code listings, we are required to label each board with our code listing numbers (NER-508 and ICBO ES-ER 5747).



Note: Use acetone to lighten any visible printing on the side of the boards.

Mold Technical Bulletin

Mold is a lower form of plant life that can settle and grow on any surface, including *Trex*[®] decking. Mildew is a form of mold that grows on damp surfaces.

Mold spores are similar to seeds, but cannot be seen until colonies form. Air currents, insects, animals and water transport the spores easily. Due to mold's adaptability and large number of species, it is very hard to control and impossible to totally eliminate. Mold will not affect the structural performance of *Trex* decking.

In order to form visible colonies, mold needs food, moisture, and temperatures between 40 and 90 degrees F. *Trex* decking is not a food source for mold, but can collect food in the form of dirt and debris such as the overflow from flowerpots and gutters. *Trex* decking can also supply moisture if the gaps between deck boards are too small or clogged. Refer to *Trex* decking Usage Guidelines (p. 36 & 37) for gapping instructions.

How to remove Mold from *Trex* Decking

All exterior building materials require cleaning. *Trex* is no exception. Periodic cleaning of *Trex* decking will remove dirt that can feed mold. If mold colonies appear, clean the deck with a deck wash containing a detergent and sodium hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach. This chemical will lighten the wood on the surface of *Trex* in addition to removing the mold. To minimize lightening of darker *Trex* colors, dilute bleach cleaner 50% with water.

The following brands of deck cleaners have

been found to be effective in removing mold from *Trex* decking:

- *PSC Composite Deck Restorer*^{™*} (www.psc-solutions.com)
- *Olympic Deck Wash*^{**}
- *Behr*^{®***} Deck Prep and Mildew Stain Remover

Follow all package directions for usage, safety and disposal. **NEVER mix any other cleaners (ammonia, phosphoric acid, etc.) with bleach.**

Treat deck with one of the following products to delay regrowth of mold:

- *PSC Composite Deck AfterKlean*^{™*} (www.psc-solutions.com)
- *Anti-Growth*^{®****} (www.anti-growth.com)
- *Olympic*^{**} Mildew Check

Mold spreads easily and may return in some environments despite proper cleaning and preventative measures. Mold does not damage *Trex* and will cause no harm if allowed to propagate.

* *PSC*[™] is a trademark of Problem Solving Corporation[™].

***Olympic*[®] is a registered trademark of PPG Architectural Finishes, Inc.

****Behr*[®] is a registered trademark of BEHR Process Corporation.

*****Anti-Growth*[®] is a registered trademark of GSI/Camden Products, LLC.

APPENDIX: A

PAINTING TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Can Trex decking and railing be painted or stained?

Yes, you can paint or stain Trex® to achieve a custom color, but it is not necessary for protection. Paints and stains that adhere well to wood will work as well or better with Trex decking. Trex decking that has been weathered can be painted or stained at any time, even years after it has been installed. However, you should use a paint or stain that is made for a walking surface.

What types of paints and stains shall I use?

Most paints or stains that you would apply to wood can be applied to Trex decking and railing. The following paint companies have evaluated Trex and have suggested these coatings.

Paint Manufacturer	Toll Free Number for Technical Support	Suggested Coating
Cabot®*	800-877-8246	Solid Color Decking Stain with Teflon Surface Protector
Behr®	800-854-0133	Deck Plus Solid Deck Stain (no primer needed)
Olympic® (PPG)	800-235-5020 Technical 800-428-7806 Sales	1 — Coat Olympic Deck Primer or Olympic Permanizer 2 — Coats Olympic Solid Color Deck Stain
Sherwin Williams®**	800-4-Sherwin	S-W Decksapces ext acrylic deck stain A15-150 Series or S-W Woodsapces ext acrylic deck stain A15 Series

Should I wait until my Trex decking is faded before applying paint or stain?

Yes, it is important to wait for Trex to fade (approximately 8–12 weeks) before applying paint or stain. If the Trex decking is painted or stained before it fades, the paint or stain could become discolored and adhesion may be compromised. This discoloration is not permanent and can be cleaned.

Once I've picked out my paint or stain, what do I do?

This easy three-step process will guide you:

- Wait until the Trex decking and railing fades, approximately 8–12 weeks.
- Clean your Trex surface. Never paint or stain over dirty surfaces or surfaces with mold or mildew.

Refer to your owners kit for cleaning instructions.

- Apply the paint or stain in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

How long will the paint or stain on my Trex decking and railing last?

This depends on the paint or stain, but testing has shown that paints and stains on Trex will last as long or longer than paints or stains on wood. Because Trex decking absorbs minimal moisture, the paint or stain will not experience checking or splitting.

What about cleaning my painted or stained Trex?

Consult with your paint or stain manufacturer's directions before cleaning.

*Cabot® is a registered trademark of Samuel Cabot, Inc.

** Sherwin Williams® is a registered trademark of the Sherwin Williams Company.