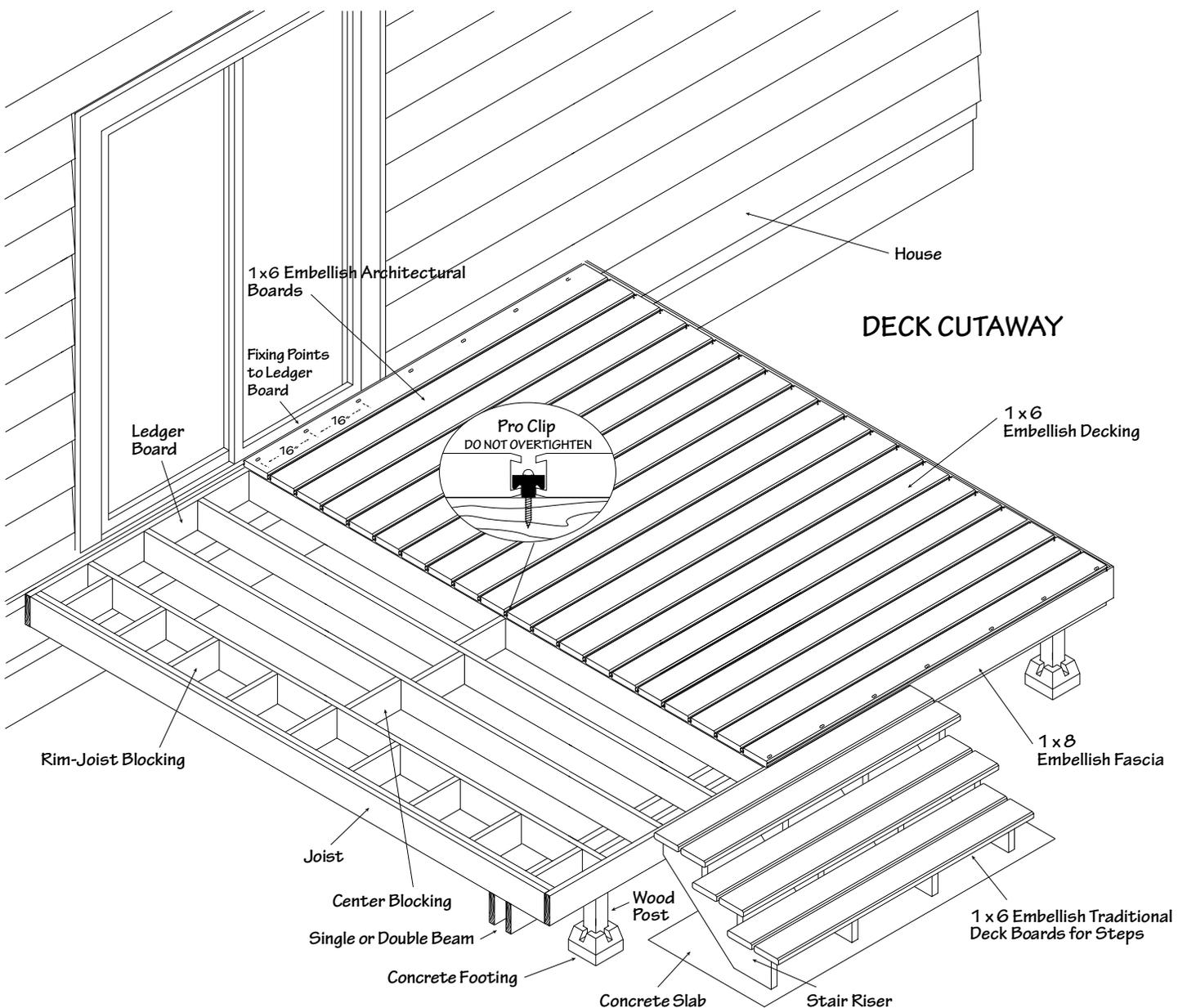




# ARCHITECTURAL BOARD RESIDENTIAL INSTALL GUIDE



# PLANNING YOUR DECK

**(For residential decks 40' or less in length)** Comply with local building codes. Use this guide to figure out your materials list and to calculate the quantities required for your deck project (formulas on page 2). This guide also gives you the correct installation methods.

## TOOL LIST

Tools Required:

Pencil

Tape measure

Level

Square

Chalk line (use either baby powder or Strait-Line™ Dust-Off Marking Chalk available at Irwin.com)

Drill (cordless preferable)

Fastener Bit

Jigsaw

Skill Saw

Optional But Helpful:

Chop saw

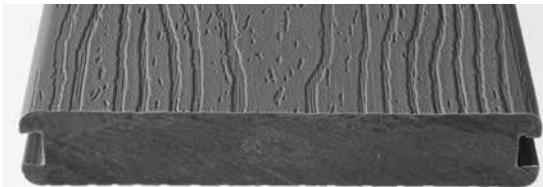
Table saw

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. Check all local building codes.
2. Confirm intended use as Residential Outdoor Construction.
3. When using ACQ or CA treated lumber, use manufacturer's recommended Fasteners, Joist Hangers and Cross-bracing.
4. Use bracing or blocking to eliminate rack (this is necessary because this is a floating deck system).
5. Follow the detailed instructions provided in this Installation Guide.

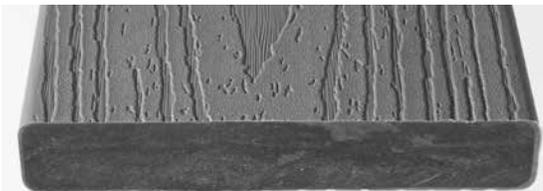
For more information on Embellish, ask your retailer or refer to our website: [Sylvanix.com](http://Sylvanix.com)

## EMBELLISH BOARD OPTIONS



### Embellish Architectural Boards

Our Architectural board profile is a very popular option. It gives you the advantage of installation using our hidden Pro Clip system. The result is a beautiful deck with no visible screws. Use this installation guide for installing this profile only.



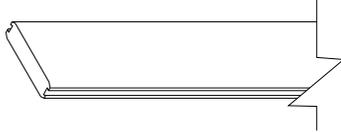
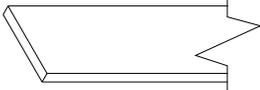
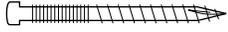
### Embellish Traditional Boards

Our Traditional board profile is for people who prefer the look and installation method of screwing your deck boards through the surface to the frame. This installation guide should not be used for Traditional boards. For proper installation procedures, please visit [Sylvanix.com](http://Sylvanix.com).

### IMPORTANT: IF USING ARCHITECTURAL BOARDS IN HIGH WIND AREAS

In some situations, high winds can cause Embellish Architectural boards to make a whistling sound. The whistle is caused by air moving rapidly under the deck, then up between the boards and across the board's installation clip grooves. For this reason, we recommend using Embellish Traditional deck boards in locations prone to high winds. Embellish Architectural boards can be used if steps are taken to prevent winds from flowing under the deck and through the deck boards. You can prevent wind from flowing under the deck by using solid fascia panels around the deck. You can use an under-deck system. Either approach will work.

# CALCULATION GUIDE FOR EMBELLISH DECKING MATERIALS

<p><b>1x6 Architectural Boards</b> Architectural is a solid core profile. Boards come with traditional wood grain finish on both sides (12', 16' &amp; 20' lengths).</p>		<p>Square feet of deck surface = _____ x 2.133 Lineal feet (approx.) = _____</p>
<p><b>3/16" Pro Clip Fasteners</b> Clips fasten deck boards to joists with #7x1-5/8 self tapping screws (Box of 100).</p>		<p>Square feet of deck = _____ x 2 Quick Clips (approx.) = _____</p>
<p><b>1x8 Fascia Boards</b> Used to cover the joists for an attractive finish. Comes in 1x8 (12' lengths).</p>		<p>Deck perimeter length = _____ Overhang for miter + 4" each corner Fascia lineal feet = _____</p>
<p><b>#10 x 2 3/4" Stainless Steel Deck Screws</b> Used to attach Fascia to joists and also for breaker boards (if used) and to secure first and last boards against house and edge of deck.</p>		<p>Lineal feet of Fascia, two lengths of deck boards and breaker board length if used. = _____ x 1.5 Screws = _____</p>

## DO NOT DO THE FOLLOWING WITH EMBELLISH DECKING

1. Never use nails in Embellish.
2. Never miter Embellish deck boards at corners when doing wrap-around decks. There is nowhere for expansion to take place, which will cause cupping and warping. Visit [Sylvanix.com](http://Sylvanix.com) for options.
3. Never span Embellish deck boards more than what is recommended in the installation guide.
4. Never install 5/4" deck boards over existing deck surface. Always remove old deck surface and secure Embellish decking to existing sub structure after making sure it meets the specifications outlined in this guide and after post pockets have been framed in.
5. Never secure Embellish Architectural or Traditional deck boards to above ground pool copings for expansion/contraction reasons.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER USED A COMPOSITE DECK MATERIAL, BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO BUILD A EMBELLISH DECK READ THROUGH THIS GUIDE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. IT MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL TO CONSULT WITH A RETAILER OR CONTRACTOR.

## DECK BOARD COLOR VARIATION

Embellish decking is an eco-friendly product manufactured from a composite or recycled materials. While strict quality control guidelines are followed in an attempt to maintain consistent board colors, some variation may occur prior to installation. To ensure your deck looks great in situations where some color variation does occur, please follow these instructions:

Before installation, deck boards should be laid out in a pattern that evenly distributes any color variations throughout the surface. Over a period of 60-90 days, the deck boards will weather and these color variations will soften and become less noticeable.

**IMPORTANT:** If utilizing pressure treated structural framing, follow the metal fastener manufacturer's recommendations to avoid corrosion.

# READ BEFORE STARTING

These instructions should only be used with Architectural boards on decks 40' in length and smaller. For larger decks and Traditional board applications, obtain Installation Guides by visiting [Sylvanix.com](http://Sylvanix.com).

**IMPORTANT  
COMPOSITE MATERIAL  
CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES  
EVERY BUILDER NEEDS  
TO KNOW.**

## Embellish's Architectural Boards are a Floating Deck System that allows for Natural Expansion and Contraction.

All composite materials expand and contract with temperature and moisture changes. Controlling expansion and contraction in composites is different from the building methods used in traditional wood construction. Understanding and following the building methods detailed in this guide is the key to a proper Embellish installation.

There are two new composite building innovations to be aware of:

1. Hidden Fasteners allow expansion and contraction movement to happen, which decrease stress points.
2. Deck Framing and Bracing methods ensure deck board stability and the deck's structural integrity.

## FASTENING AND TRIM TECHNIQUES

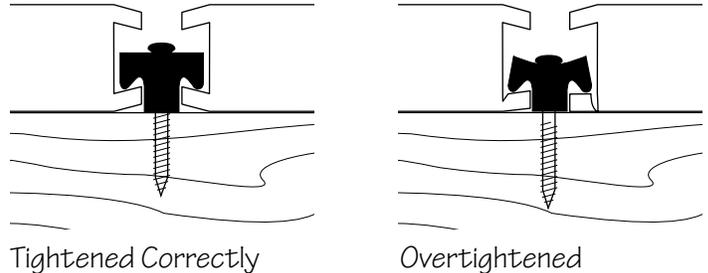
### Embellish Pro Clip Fasteners

PRO CLIPS are spacer, fastener and the primary component of our floating deck system. They make it simple to precisely align your deck boards while allowing them to expand and contract freely under each T-shaped clip. Clips are fastened with a screw at every joist along the length of your deck boards.

### The Proper Way to Tighten a Pro Clip

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT NOT TO OVERTIGHTEN SCREWS. Pro Clips should be tightened just to the point where the

clip seats to the joist. Overtightening could lead to fastener failure (deck board lip could bow or eventually crack).



## FRAMING AND BRACING METHODS

To get the most from your new Embellish building system, please read through these instructions carefully before you begin.

Embellish decks are built on a standard code-compliant 16" on center (12" for 45° decking layout) wood frame. (Diagram 1)

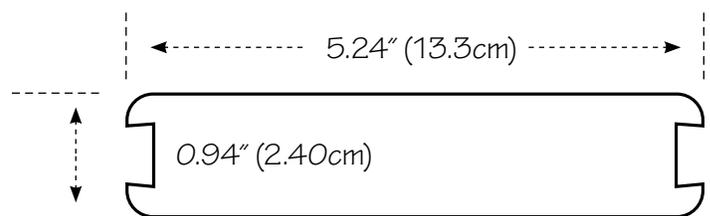
Make sure your deck frame is square. Because Embellish is a floating system that allows for expansion/contraction, cross-bracing and blocking are required for stability. (Diagram 2)

2A. Install repetitive Rim-Blocking every 16" center to center between the rim joist and neighboring joist.

2B. Joists require Staggered-Blocking every 8' or midway between spans less than 16' (measured from house).

For decks over 20' you must have double joists where two deck boards butt together. (Diagram 3) Using a breaker board requires two double joists. (Diagram 4)

Note: If you are installing Posts and Railing please refer to the appendix at the back of this guide for information on installing Post Pockets, which are recommended if you are installing wood or any other railing system.

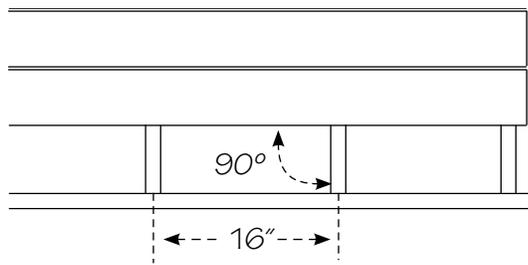


Embellish Voided Back board dimensions:  
5.24"x0.94" (13.3cm x 2.40cm)

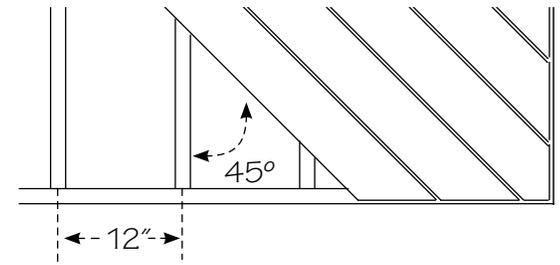
1

Joist Spacing

90° Decking: Joists 16" center to center



45° Decking: Joists 12" center to center



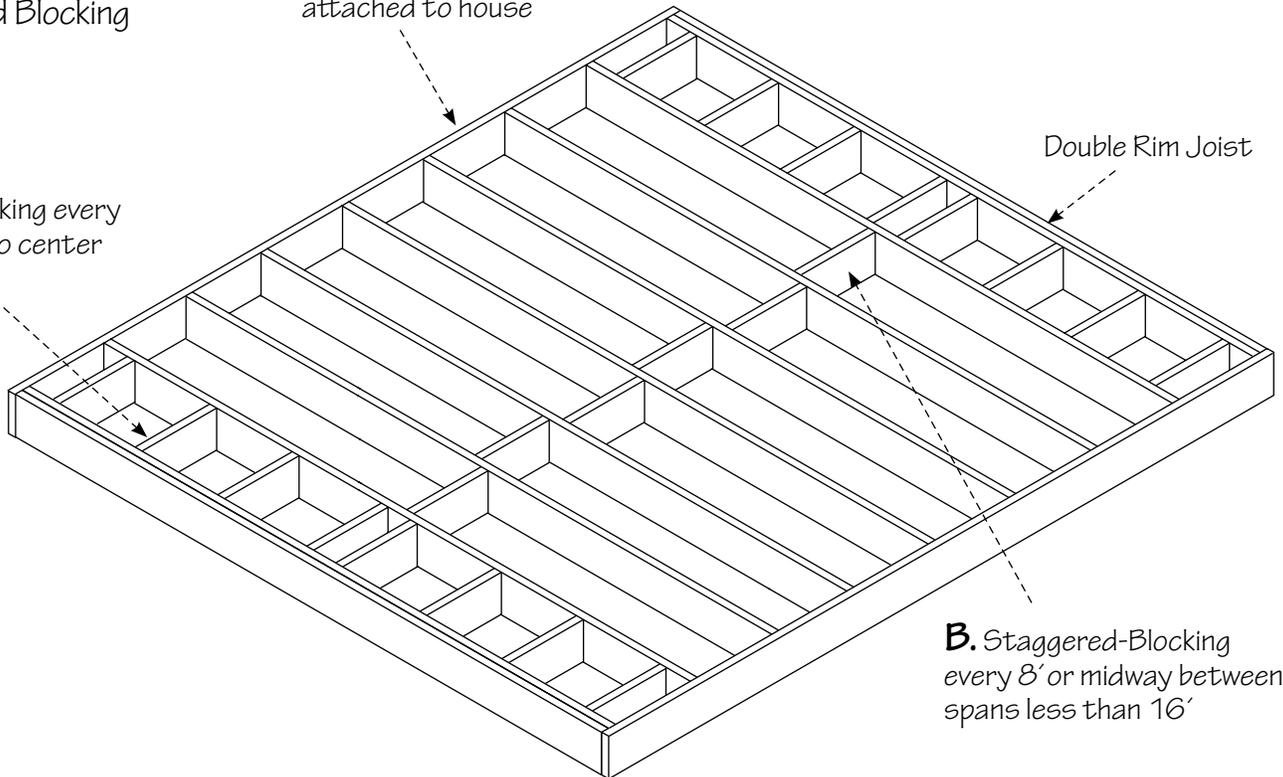
2

Bracing and Blocking Layout

Ledger Board attached to house

Double Rim Joist

A. Rim-Blocking every 16" center to center

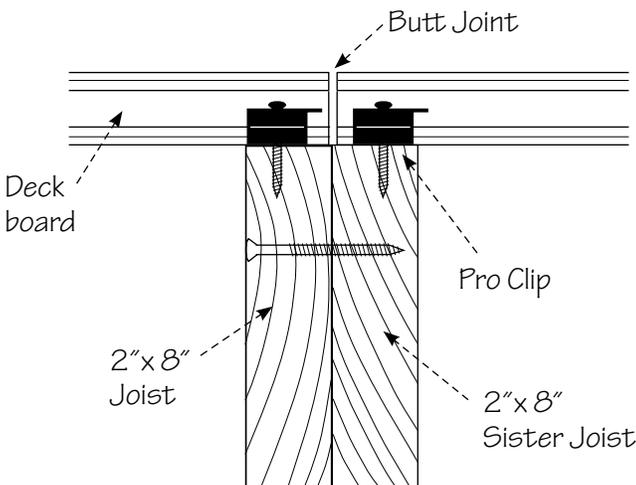


B. Staggered-Blocking every 8' or midway between spans less than 16'

### FRAMING FOR PROPER DECK BOARD BUTT JOINTS AND BREAKER BOARDS

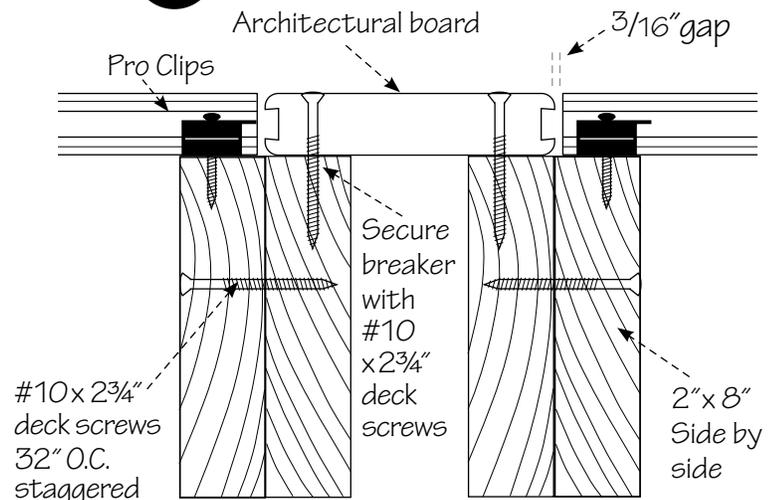
3

Framing for Butt Joint



4

Framing for Breaker Board Joint



# DECK BOARD INSTALLATION

To enjoy all the benefits of a Embellish deck, installing deck boards correctly is important. The keys to success are understanding proper gapping for expansion and correct use of Pro Clip fasteners.

PRO CLIPS are both spacer and fastener. They make it easier to install deck boards with craftsman-like precision while allowing for expansion/contraction.

Important: DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN CLIP SCREWS.

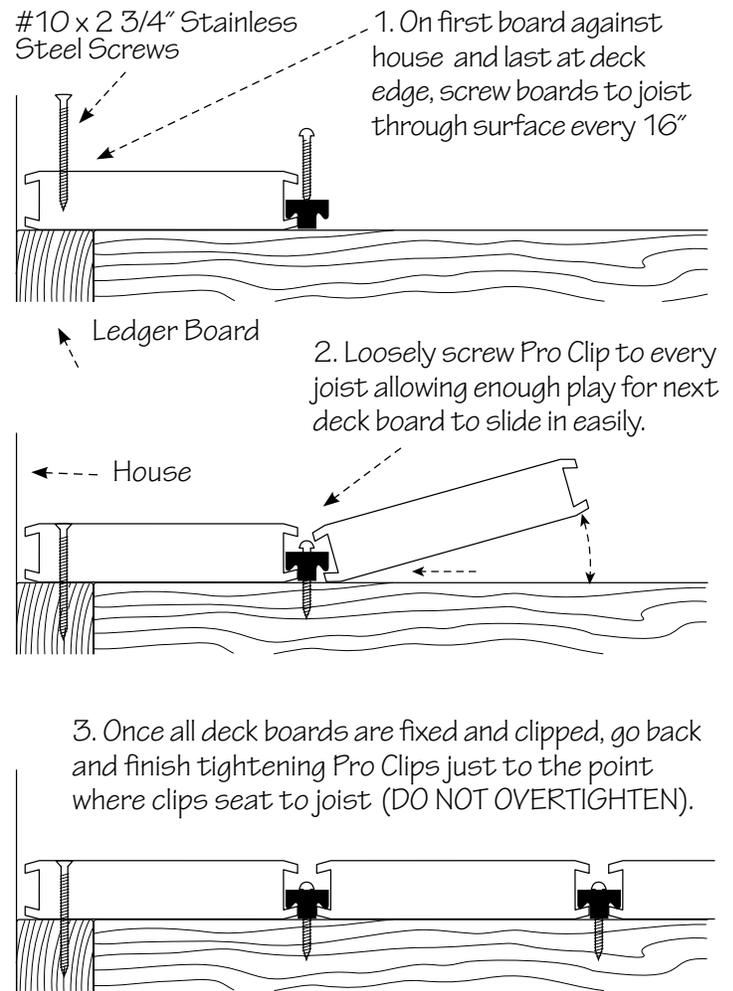
The first board against the house and the last board at the edge of the deck secure through the surface along the full length of the boards every 16". Once first board is fastened, install Pro Clip at each joist. Repeat process until all deck boards are installed. (Diagram 5)

Leave a minimum 1/4" overhang at both ends of the deck for an even trim cut after all decking is installed. When all your deck boards are secured, cut your deck boards to an even length using the appropriate gap before installing Fascia. Proper gaps against fixed edges and butt joints are also important. (Diagram 6)

When installing posts for railing, it is necessary to have expansion gaps around all sides of the post. (Diagram 6)

After all deck boards are secured and trimmed to even lengths, Fascia boards can be attached to the joists to give a finished edge to your deck. (Diagram 7)

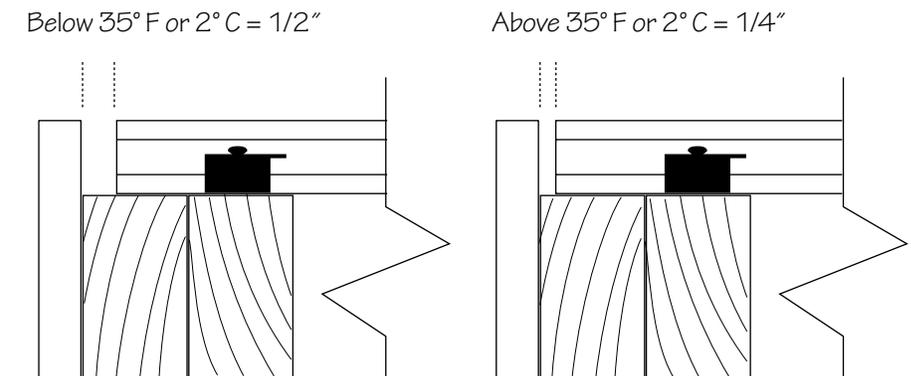
## 5 Fixed Point Connection for first board against house and Pro Clip installation



## EXPANSION GAPS (for maximum 40' long deck)

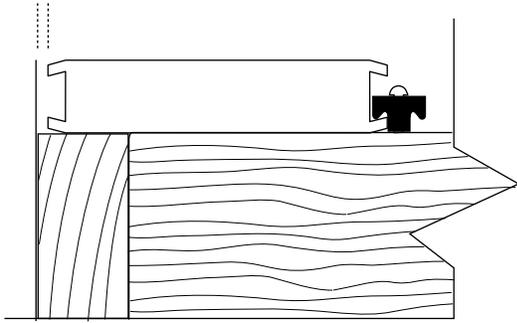
To prevent deck boards from expanding into the Fascia and forcing it away from the rim joist, it is important to trim the boards to the proper gap based on the ambient temperature at the time boards are trimmed.

### 6 Gap at Edge of Deck between End of Board and Fascia



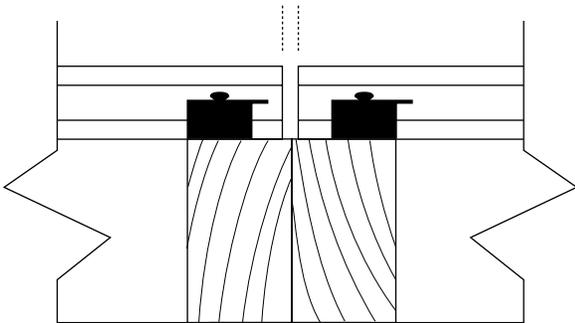
## Gap between Side of Board and Fixed Edge

3/16" gap against fixed edges

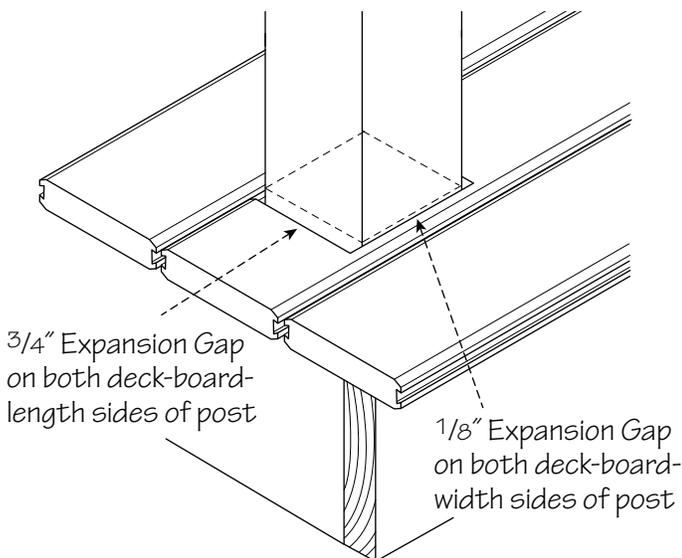


## Gap at Butt Joints

Below 35° F or 2° C = 3/16" – Above 35° F or 2° C = 1/8"



## Gaps around Posts



## FASCIA INSTALLATION

First step is to measure and cut your Fascia. Attach to joists 4" from each end and every 16" using #10 x 2 3/4" Stainless Steel Deck Screws.

### 7 Fascia is used to give a finished look to deck edges

Deck Edge Expansion Gap  
(See chart on previous page for measurement)

Fascia

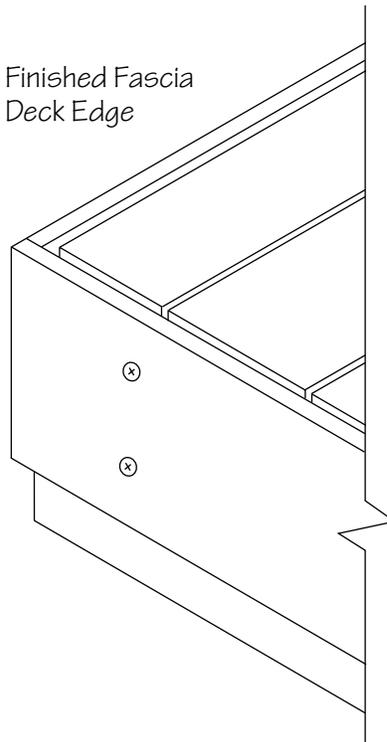
Attach with  
#10 x 2 3/4"  
Stainless Steel  
Deck Screws.

Deck Board

#10 x 2 3/4"  
Stainless Steel  
Deck Screws

Rim Joist

Finished Fascia  
Deck Edge



For railing installation, it is recommended you follow the installation guides provided by the railing system you are using or a construction manual and always consult local codes for deck railing installation guidelines. Embellish does not offer deck railing.

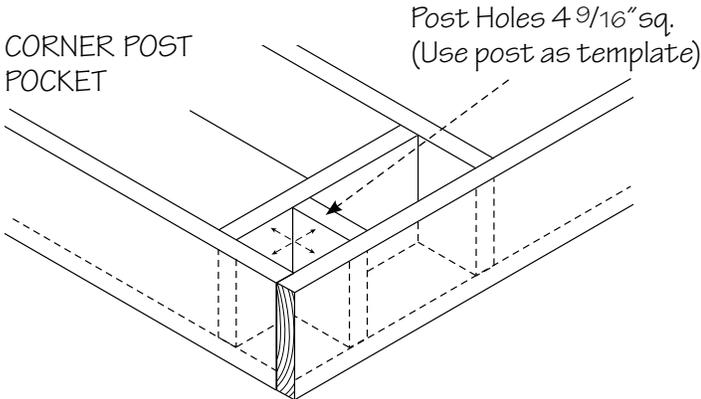
# APPENDIX: FRAMING FOR POSTS

## A Post Pocket Framing

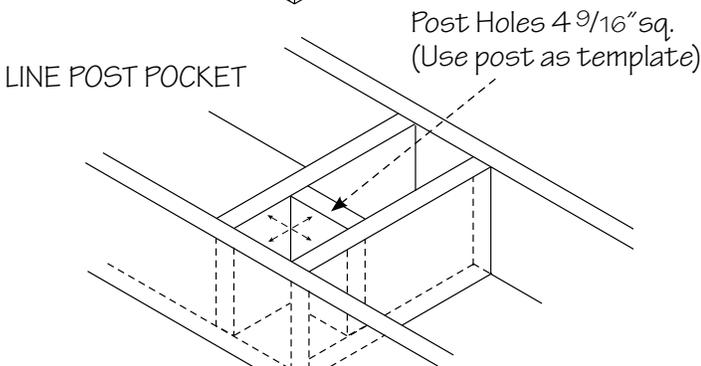
Frame in Corner Post Pockets first, then evenly space and frame in Line Post Pockets. Use a Post as a template when framing Post Pockets to ensure proper hole dimension. Check your handrail kit install guide to determine the proper distance between posts.

## B Post Pocket Types

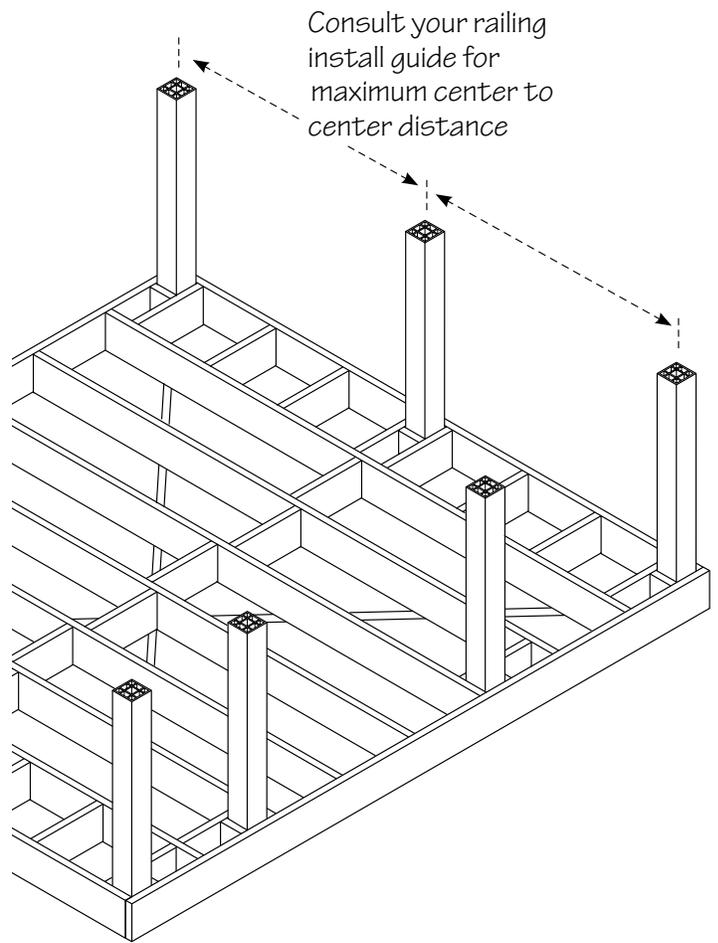
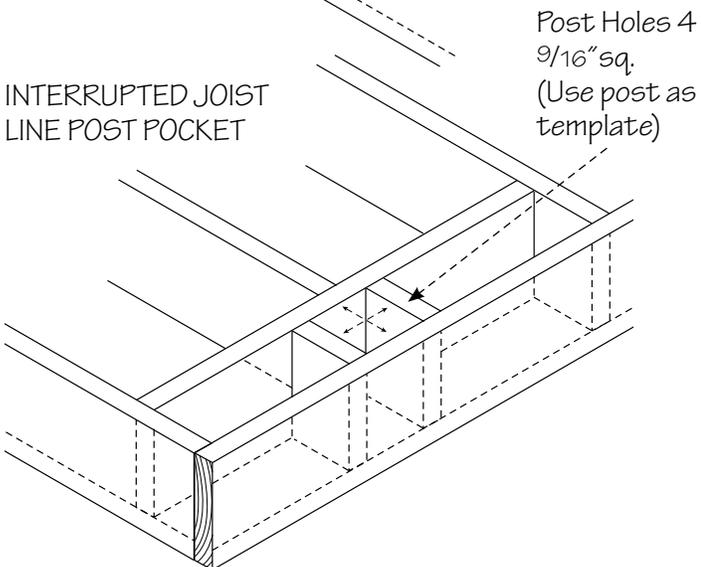
CORNER POST POCKET



LINE POST POCKET



INTERRUPTED JOIST LINE POST POCKET



Posts should not be placed and secured until all decking has been laid. Notch deck boards to provide the proper expansion gap as they are being placed and secured.

When you are ready to install posts, please refer to manufacturer install guide for proper way to secure Posts into Post Pockets.

## C Post Pocket Bottoms

Install Post Pocket Bottoms. Use scrap lumber to keep post heights level and keep insects out.

View from under frame

Use construction site scrap to make post pocket bottoms.

