

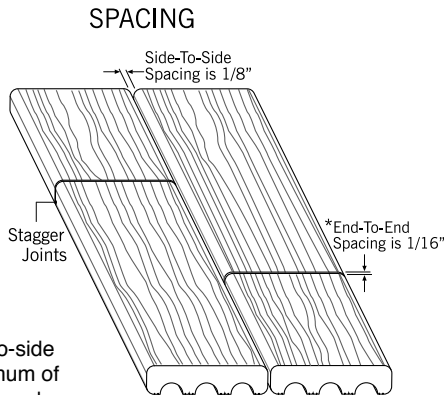
## Installation Instructions

### • CUTTING & DRILLING

When working with Elements® decking, saw blades and router bits with carbide tips are recommended. For best results, use blades with two teeth per inch. To avoid clogging when drilling holes, frequently remove shavings by raising the drill bit out of the hole.

### • SPACING

Elements decking and skirting will expand and contract with changes in temperature. The amount of expansion and contraction will vary depending upon board size and temperature. Shorter boards will expand less and longer board sizes will expand more. When installing decking, side-to-side spacing must be a minimum of 1/8" between adjacent boards.



\*End-to-end spacing between boards must be approximately 1/16" for every 20-degree increment of temperature difference between the temperature during installation and the maximum expected summertime temperature in your area. Butt joints of boards must be staggered. A sister joist may be utilized at the butt joint to provide a greater fastening area.

\*EXAMPLE: 80°F at time of installation and a maximum expected summertime temperature of 100° F equals an end-to-end spacing of 1/16".

### • FASTENING

Elements decking can be fastened by screws, nails, pneumatic fasteners or one of many hidden fastening systems available. **Consult your building professional to ensure selection of fasteners is compatible with your joist and substructure material.** The fastening decision is solely the responsibility of the contractor, installer or homeowner. TAMKO does not recommend or endorse any specific fastening system.

Like wood, pre-drilling the end/edges of the boards is required to avoid splitting or cracking. Pre-drilling is also required in cold weather. When pre-drilling, we recommend that the drill bit diameter be the same diameter as the fastener shank. Fasteners must be spaced at a minimum of 3/4" from the end of the board and 1" from the edge of the board. Skirting must be fastened with 3 fasteners every 8" on a solid surface.

Decking must be fastened at every joist. Two fasteners are required at the end of the board. Make sure joists are level.

A greater force is required to drive fasteners into decking especially when installing in cold temperatures.

• **WOOD/COMPOSITE SCREWS** Nominal 1" thick boards require a #8 - 2 1/2" or longer screw for fastening.

• **NAILS** Hold nails by hand until they are driven 1/2 the length of the fastener into the decking.

• **PNEUMATIC NAILER** Constant air pressure must be used to drive the nail head flush with the top of the deck board. When using pneumatic nail guns follow the nail gun manufacturer's installation and safety instructions.

• **STRING LINE** The use of a string line to align fasteners/boards is recommended to enhance the appearance of your finished deck. (Do not use a chalk line)

• **FINISHING TOUCH** Deck material will swell over fastener heads. Gently hammer the material down to cover the fastener head. To minimize this from occurring, pre-drill fastener holes.

### • LIMITED WARRANTY

TAMKO® Building Products, Inc. provides a 25-year limited warranty for Elements Products. Failure to install Elements products in accordance with these written instructions may exclude coverage under the limited warranty. For a copy of the limited warranty see your Elements Dealer or visit [elementsdecking.com](http://elementsdecking.com). **Returns of or claims for decking product due to any condition that was clearly apparent prior to application/fastening of product, will not be considered after decking has been applied/fastened to deck structure, joist, etc.**

### • DECKING SPAN CHART

Maximum recommended center-to-center spans with a minimum of three joists are shown below. Elements deck boards must not be applied to a solid surface.

#### Center-To-Center Span

	Residential Decks, Light Duty Decks	Commercial Decks, Docks, Boardwalks & Marinas
Live Load	100 psf	100 psf
1" x 6"	16"	16"

Composite decking has a more flexible feel than wood primarily during the heat of summer. This is a natural condition that will not affect the ability of the decking to perform as warranted. For a more rigid feel, reduce joist span spacing 4". Decking cannot be cantilevered (overhang edge of deck) because structural support is required. Elements decking is a non-structural construction product. The decking products must not be used as a structural member; including joists, load bearing columns, stringers, or beams. For best results, add an additional joist at the butt joints to increase stiffness.

### • CLEANING

Semi-annual cleaning of your deck is recommended.

**FOR DETAILED CLEANING INFORMATION**, please visit the care and cleaning section on our website at [elementsdecking.com](http://elementsdecking.com).

After cleaning, flush the surface of decking using a garden hose or a power washer hose with a fan-tip nozzle at a pressure not exceeding 1,000 psi to remove any excess cleaning agents.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Sanding the surface to remove stains must not be done.

### • HANDLING

Elements decking is heavier and more flexible than traditional wood products. Use care and do not attempt to lift or carry more decking than you can safely handle at one time. Proper clothing and safety glasses must be worn at all times when working with decking.

Store material on a rigid, smooth, flat surface. The unused material should be kept covered and supported every 24". If boards become bent, most can be bent back to their original shape during application.

Determination of the effectiveness, suitability, and safety of any application or use of Elements decking is solely the responsibility of the homeowner, contractor, or installer. Building code regulations vary, and the homeowner, contractor, or installer must consult local building and safety codes for specific requirements prior to the application of Elements decking.

### • LUMBER SIZES & DIMENSIONS

Nominal Size	Actual Size
1" x 6" x (12', 16', or 20')	15/16" x 5-1/4"
Skirting (12')	1/2" x 11-7/8"
*4" x 4" (104") Post Sleeve**	4-3/8" x 4-3/8"
Post Cap & Ring	Fits Post Sleeve
6' Designer Rail & Stair Rail Kits	
Baluster Kit (Pre-sized for 36" or 42" railing heights)	
Post Sleeve Kits** (38", 48" or 116" post sleeve)	

All Tolerances +/- 1/16"

**Note:** \*4" x 4" x 104" Post Sleeve is special order only.  
\*\*Post Sleeve is a non-structural, ornamental accessory.  
Wood post is not included.

### • BUILDING CODE APPROVED

CCRR Approved (ATI-CCRR-0136). Refer to code reports on [elementsdecking.com](http://elementsdecking.com) for product details.

#### TAMKO Building Products, Inc.

P.O. Box 1404, Joplin, Missouri 64802

- Technical Services: 800-641-4691
  - Warranty Services: 800-441-7190
  - Customer Service: 800-253-1401
- [elementsdecking.com](http://elementsdecking.com)



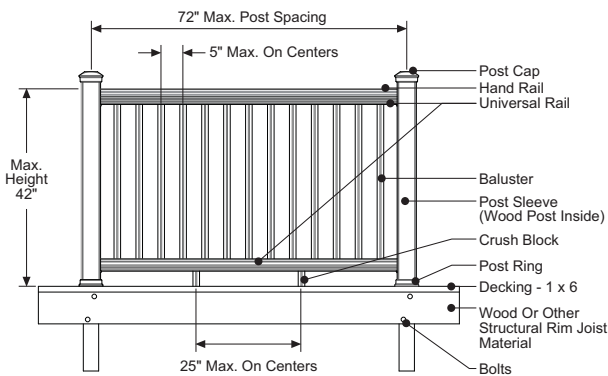
These application instructions were current at the time of printing. To obtain a copy of the most current version of the application instructions, visit us online at [elementsdecking.com](http://elementsdecking.com) or call us at 800-641-4691.

## Installation Instructions

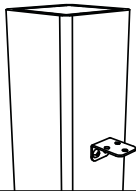
### IMPORTANT ELEMENTS® PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Make safety of the workspace the prime consideration. Always wear the proper protective clothing and safety equipment, and adhere to all safety guidelines contained herein.
- As with all walking surfaces, deck boards located in higher traffic areas may show wear earlier than other areas. Dragging furniture or other objects across the product will cause surface scratches.
- Like wood, color variation of Elements® deck boards will occur. For optimal appearance, lay out and view all boards before cutting or fastening, placing all tagged ends in the same direction.
- Discuss any desired material changes, including color matching, with the supplier prior to cutting or fastening the decking to the structure.
- The weathering process for Elements decking products will vary due to region, climate, rain, sunlight exposure, etc. Some variation in decking shade will appear due to weathering that will occur at the supplier's yard prior to shipment and due to different product lots. For best results, use material from the same date code, (stamped on end or edges of boards) whenever possible.
- The color of Elements deck boards will usually weather to a lighter shade within the first 12 weeks of exposure to the environment.
- Composite decking has a more flexible feel than wood primarily during the heat of summer. This is a natural condition that will not affect the ability of the decking to perform as warranted. For a more rigid feel, reduce joist span spacing by 4".
- Elements decking and railing must always be installed in accordance with the installation instructions. Deviations from these instructions may result in unsatisfactory performance, create a potential safety hazard and may exclude coverage of your decking and/or railing under the limited warranty.
- Elements deck boards must never be applied directly to any solid surface (concrete, membranes, etc.) or in conjunction with systems where inadequate drainage or improper ventilation are found. There must be proper ventilation and adequate air circulation underneath the deck to promote the evaporation of any water or moisture.

#### DESIGNER RAILING



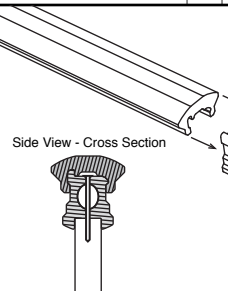
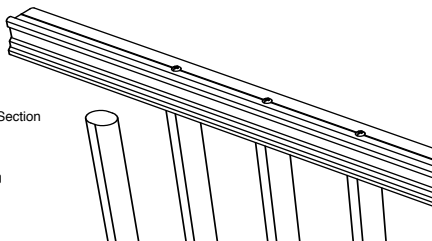
1. Wood posts must be spaced at a maximum of 72" on center. Do not notch post.
  2. Drill pilot holes\* for all components of railing system before fastening with screws. It is recommended to countersink before fastening with screws.
  3. For best appearance, cover your 4x4 wood posts with Designer Railing post sleeves (See post sleeve details). Slide the post ring over the post sleeve.
- \*To avoid clogging when drilling holes, frequently remove shavings by raising the drill bit out of the hole.



4. Measure the height for the top universal rail and brackets. Connect the Designer Railing brackets to the post with 2 #10 x 2-1/2" screws.

5. Slide the balusters into the top universal rail and fasten each with 1 #8 x 3" screw.

Side View - Cross Section



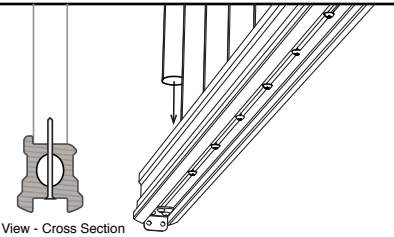
6. Slide the top hand rail over the top universal rail.



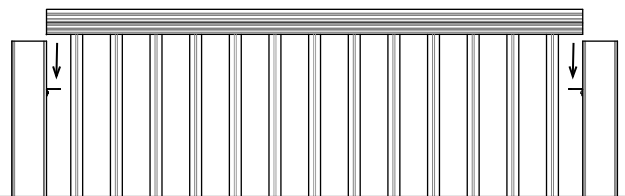
7. Measure the height for the bottom universal rail and brackets. Fasten the Designer Railing brackets between the two legs of the underneath side of the bottom universal rail with 3 #10 x 1" screws.

8. Locate the baluster in the middle of the bottom universal rail by utilizing the universal rail's single leg. Fasten each baluster to the bottom of the universal rail with 1 #8 x 3" screw.

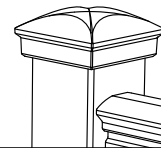
Side View - Cross Section



9. Raise the rail and place it between the posts by setting it on the crush blocks and the two top Designer Railing brackets. Anchor the assembled top rail to the Designer Railing brackets using 3 #10 x 1" screws, and then anchor the bottom Designer Railing brackets to the post with 2 #10 x 2-1/2" screws.



10. Attach the post cap using adhesive.



Consult your building professional to ensure selection of fasteners is compatible with your joist and substructure material.

#### POST SLEEVE

1. Slide the post sleeve over the secured wood post and level.
2. Post sleeve should fit squarely on the deck.



Post Sleeve

4X4 Wood Post