WEATHER EFFECTS ON PRESSURE-TREATED WOOD. Wet conditions cause wood to swell; dry conditions cause it to shrink. With Thompsonized® wood there is less dimensional change than with ordinary treated wood, however, as it dries out initially, Thompsonized® Wood will shrink like other wood. Therefore, butt deck boards together during construction to allow for this initial shrinkage, which can be as much as 3/4” for a 6” wide piece of wood.

DOES BUILT-IN WATERPROOFING MEAN I NEVER HAVE TO APPLY A COATING? No. The waterproofing inside Thompsonized® Wood will last for the life of the wood. But, the water repellency of the surface will become less effective as it’s exposed to weather, foot traffic, and the sun’s ultraviolet rays. To keep your wood’s surface looking better longer, apply a Thompson’s® brand waterproofing product—clear, color finish, or stain—every year.

HOW SOON CAN I COAT THOMPSONIZED® WOOD? Check the label of the coating product. You can apply any oil-based Thompson’s® Stain or Wood Protector Color Finish as soon as 30 days after building your deck. We recommend waiting for one year before using water-based waterproofing products. Light natural color allows for coatings to give their true tone when applied to wood.
FASTENER AND CONSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Although this preservative is less corrosive than traditional types, we recommend hot-dipped galvanized fasteners (meeting ASTM A 153) and connectors (ASTM A 653 Class G185 sheet), or better, as required by most building codes.
- Butt deck boards together during construction.
- 5/4 deck boards should be placed on 16 inch centers.
- To reduce splitting, drill a pilot hole about 3/4 of the diameter of the screw or nail.
- For 2" lumber, use 12d nails or 3" screws.
- For 5/4 decking, use 10d nails or 2 1/2" screws.
- When using a pneumatic automatic nailer for deck construction, use regulated air and never use more pressure than is necessary to drive the fasteners flush to the surface of the deck board.
- Screws take longer to drive than nails, but hold boards securely and allow for easier removal if a board needs replacing. To match Thompsonized® Wood quality, use screws.
- Aluminum contact is not recommended where moisture is present.

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

You may be surprised to learn that, although ordinary pressure-treating protects wood from rot and termites, it can’t prevent water damage. In fact, the pressure-treating process itself leaves water in the wood. That’s why lumber benefits from waterproofing inside and out, right from the beginning. All Thompsonized® Wood is pressure-treated to protect it from termite attack and rot caused by fungal decay. But we go even further, adding extraordinary protection from water damage. Specially selected waterproofing ingredients are driven deep into the wood. So it’s waterproofed to the core, to help prevent ugly warping, twisting and splitting. Plus every inch is protected—top, bottom, and sides—where surface waterproofing can’t reach giving the wood increased dimensional stability.

- Your Thompsonized® Wood is NOT a maintenance-free product. Over time, foot traffic and ultraviolet rays from the sun will break down the water repellent on the wood’s surface. To help maximize surface protection and to keep your decking project looking better longer, we recommend that you apply annually a Thompson’s® brand deck protection product that conforms to federal specification TT-W-572b.
- To revitalize a dingy appearance caused by dirt, mold or mildew, use Thompsonized® Deck Wash to clean the wood.

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not burn pressure-treated wood.
- Wear a dust mask, goggles and gloves when cutting or handling treated or untreated wood.
- After working with wood, wash exposed areas thoroughly.
- Wash work clothes separately from other household clothing before reuse.
- Pressure-treated wood should not be used where it may come into direct or indirect contact with drinking water, except for uses involving incidental contact such as fresh water docks and bridges.
- Do not use pressure-treated wood in circumstances where the preservative may become a component of food, animal feed, or beehives.
- Do not use pressure-treated wood for mulch.