

MAXIMOTM

THERMO



DECKING INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Important Species Selection Note

Maximo™ Thermo offers several thermally modified species, each suited to different applications. For **decking**, we recommend using **Thermo Ash, Thermo Clear Radiata, or Scandinavian Thermo**, as these species offer the performance characteristics appropriate for outdoor horizontal surfaces.

Thermo Ayous is **not recommended** for decking applications, as it is designed primarily for **siding, ceilings, and accent walls**.

Because every project has unique structural, climatic, and design requirements, we also recommend consulting a **qualified professional** to confirm which Maximo Thermo species and profile are best suited for your specific installation.

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1. Species Durability

- **Thermo Ash:** EN 350 Class 1 (very durable)
- **Clear Radiata:** Class 1 durable thermally modified pine
- **Scandinavian Thermo:** EN 350 Class 1 durable

2. Board Acceptance

All boards **must be inspected prior to installation**. Once boards are installed, they are considered **accepted**.

3. Natural Behavior of Thermally Modified Wood

All natural wood—including thermally modified species—will:

- Expand when wet
- Shrink when dry
- Develop fine surface checks over time

These characteristics are **normal** and do **not** affect structural performance.

4. Storage

Store Maximo™ Thermo decking boards carefully to protect them from moisture and sunlight before installation.

GENERAL STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Store boards **indoors whenever possible**, protected from direct sun and moisture.
- UV exposure will begin natural color changes even before installation.
- If stored outdoors:
 - Elevate boards **at least 6" (150 mm)** off the ground.
 - Stack evenly on level supports.
 - Cover with a **breathable, waterproof tarp**, leaving the ends open for ventilation.
- Avoid storing boards in **tightly wrapped original packaging** in wet conditions.

ACCLIMATIZATION

While longer acclimation can be beneficial, **most customers install decking shortly after purchase.**

At minimum:

- Store boards on-site **under cover** for a short period before installation.
- Avoid exposing stored boards to rain or standing moisture.

SPECIES NOTES

All species—**Clear Radiata, Scandinavian Thermo, and Ash**—share the same storage requirements.

5. Substructure & Moisture Protection

A properly designed substructure is essential for long-term deck performance. Thermal modification increases stability, but proper airflow and drainage are still critical.

JOIST REQUIREMENTS

- Install decking on **level, structurally sound** joists.
- Maximum recommended **joist spacing: 16" O.C. (400 mm).**
- Acceptable joist materials:
 - Maximo Thermo of a compatible species.
 - Aluminum.
- Pressure-treated structural joists.

GROUND CLEARANCE & AIRFLOW

To avoid trapped moisture:

- Maintain **minimum 4" (100 mm)** clearance from ground to deck surface.
- Ensure airflow from all sides:
 - Leave **3/4" (20 mm)** between decking and adjacent walls.
 - Keep skirting boards **ventilated**, raised **2" (50 mm)** above grade.

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DRAINAGE

- Ensure ground beneath the deck has a **positive slope** to prevent water pooling.
- Shim joists when needed to maintain airflow and drainage paths.

MOISTURE PROTECTION MEASURES

- Apply **UV-resistant decking tape** to joist tops to prevent water retention.
- Maintain **wood-to-wood separation**:
 - Leave **1/8"–5/16" (4–8 mm)** between decking boards and joists.
 - Use spacers or choose hidden fasteners that elevate boards off the joist.

END SEALING

For best results, Maximo recommends:

- Using **pre-finished boards** when available, or
- Applying a **high-quality exterior oil-based coating**, such as *US4 Everdeck Oil* or a similar product.

This helps maintain color and increases protection in **high-UV or high-moisture** environments.

6. Installation with Screws

Maximo Thermo decking can be installed using stainless steel screws for a traditional, visible-fastener approach.

FASTENER REQUIREMENTS

- Always use **stainless steel screws** (A2 or A4 quality).

TYPICAL WOOD SUBSTRUCTURE FASTENER RECOMMENDATION

For standard installations over pressure-treated wood substructures, Maximo recommends:

- #8 stainless steel trim head screws

- Approximately 1-1/2" penetration into the structural framing

Structural conditions vary by project. When required penetration cannot be achieved, fastening methods should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

PRE-DRILLING

- For Thermo Ash, **pre-drilling and countersinking** are strongly recommended. For Clear Radiata and Scandinavian Thermo, pre-drilling is recommended near board ends.

SCREW PLACEMENT

- Minimum screw distance:
 - **3/4"** from side edges.
 - **1-1/2"** from board ends.
- Always pre-drill fasteners within **8"** of board ends.
- Screws must sit **flush** with the deck surface.

BOARD ELEVATION

Maintain **4-8 mm 1/8"-5/16" (4-8 mm)** ventilation between decking boards and joists using spacers or elevated clip systems.



7. Hidden Fixing Systems

Maximo Thermo decking is compatible with common industry hidden fastening systems. These enhance aesthetics while improving airflow and drainage.

7.1 STAINLESS STEEL HIDDEN-CLIP SYSTEM

FEATURES

- Provides **4 mm or 6 mm** board spacing.
- Elevates the board approximately **1.5 mm** off the joist.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- Use one clip at every joist intersection.
- Face-screw perimeter boards.
- Pre-drill joists if required by the hardware brand.

7.2 PLASTIC HIDDEN-CLIP SYSTEM

FEATURES

- Leaves a consistent **6 mm** spacing.
- Made from UV-resistant material suitable for exterior environments.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- Attach clips using stainless screws.
- Face-screw first and last rows.

7.3 UNIVERSAL HIDDEN FASTENER

FEATURES

- Locks into the side groove of the decking board.
- Maintains **6 mm** spacing.
- Elevates the board approximately **8 mm** above the joist.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- Use one or two corners depending on board width.
- Install a fastener at every joist.
- Allows for **single-board replacement**.

7.4 PRESS-AND-CLICK RAIL SYSTEM

FEATURES

- Boards “click” into place using underside grooves.
- Ensures consistent **5 mm** spacing.
- Raises boards **5-6 mm** for ventilation.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- Carefully align rail clips before placing boards.
- Install rail sections in manageable lengths.
- Use removal keys to replace individual boards.



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8. Maintenance

Maximo Thermo is designed for long-term outdoor performance. Regular maintenance helps preserve appearance and reduce buildup of organic debris.

NATURAL WEATHERING

All Maximo Thermo species naturally weather to a **silver-gray patina** when left uncoated.

CLEANING

To prevent moisture retention:

- Remove leaves, pollen, dirt, and debris regularly.
- Clean periodically using:
 - Warm water
 - An **appropriate exterior wood cleaner if desired**
 - A soft brush

Do not use high-pressure washers, as they can raise fibers and damage the surface.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE (AFTER 1 YEAR OR MORE)

For decks exposed to the elements:

- 1. Clean the deck surface** thoroughly.
- 2. Perform a light sanding** using fine grit to remove raised fibers and refresh the surface.
- 3. Apply a maintenance oil** compatible with thermally modified wood (e.g., US4 Everdeck Oil or similar).

This sequence produces a smoother finish and better long-term performance.

SURFACE FIBERS

Over time, fine fibers may appear. This is a natural characteristic of exposed wood surfaces and can be removed during periodic sanding and cleaning.

9. Service Life & Notes

PERFORMANCE & LONGEVITY

Maximo Thermo provides:

- **Ultra stability**
- **High durability**
- **Reduced moisture content**
- **Chemical-free modification**

VENTILATION & SPACING

- Maintain gaps around the perimeter and between boards.
- See **Section 2: Substructure & Moisture Protection** for full ventilation and spacing requirements.



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