

GemThane Dex-N-Dox™ Hidden Link™ Installation Sequence



Note: Your box of Hidden Link clips contains two different lengths of screws, 1½" and 1". Note which to use for different steps.

These instructions must be read in conjunction with the Installation Guidelines for Dex-N-Dox deck boards.



Step 1: Protect The Joists and Headers

To protect the joists against decay, consider using waterproof tape ("Joist Shield"). See Dex-N-Dox Installation Guidelines for details. This step is optional. It is not a warranty requirement, but is considered good construction practice.



Step 2a: Clips For First Board

In preparation for installing the first deck board, place Hidden Link clips flat against each joist board, near the end, as shown. Fasten into the joints using 1½" screws supplied. This is the clip placement where deck board will be flush with the rim joists and headers, e.g. against a wall or at the deck face where you will be finishing the face with a skirt board mounted flush with deck surface. GemThane makes available 5/4" x 8" or 10" skirt boards with one rounded edge, for this purpose.



Step 2b: Alternative Clip Positioning

In the above photo, the clips are screwed to the outside of the header board, in anticipation that the deck board will overhang the header. This is suitable for finishing with a fascia board that will tuck under the deck board (instead of a flush-with-the-deck skirt board as discussed in Step 2a). In this configuration, a piece of GemThane fascia board, ¾" thick and 8" or 10" wide, will conceal the headers and rim joists.



Step 3: Attach Trailing Edge of First Board

Put the first deck board in position, flush or overhanging according to your preference. Use 1" screws to attach clips to underside of board. We'll refer to the outer edge of the board as the "Trailing Edge".



Step 4: Attach Clips To Leading Edge

Slide a clip under the opposite edge of the board (the "Leading Edge"), centered on a joist. Start at one end of the board. Put your weight on the board. Attach the clip to the board with a 1" screw. **Important: to avoid damage to polymer coating, do not overtighten screw. Set your cordless driver clutch to a medium-low setting.**



Step 5: Fasten Leading Edge to Joist

Fasten the clip to the joist using a 1½" screw. Repeat steps 3 and 4 sequentially at every clip location.

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Step 6: Next Board, Trailing Edge

Fasten clips to the trailing edge of the next board, on 16" centers, and offset by about 1" from the clips previously installed into the Leading Edge of the prior board.

Step 7: Position Next Board

Position this board alongside the prior board, tucking the clips on the trailing edge under the Leading Edge of the prior board. The clips will automatically create a space of 1/4" between your deck boards. Snug the boards together with a rubber mallet.



Step 8: Repeat

Repeat steps No. 4 to 7 (i.e. complete the leading edge of the board you have just positioned, then prepare and position the next board). With each board, start at one end and work progressively to the other.

Step 9: Check As You Progress

The image at right shows several deck boards installed. Every few boards, measure to make sure overall width is consistent. Make minor adjustments in the gaps between boards to keep everything even.

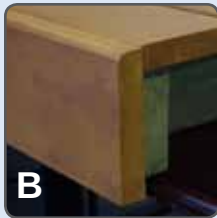


Step 10: Abutting Board Ends

Where two boards butt together, screw Support Blocks to side of joist using 2 1/2" deck screws (not supplied). For more details, refer to Dex-N-Dox Installation Guidelines.

Step 11: Leave a Gap

At these abutting boards, double up on your Hidden Link clips as shown, so that each board is independently anchored down. Leave a 1/4" gap between ends of abutting boards.



Step 12: Perimeter Detail

As you reach the end of your deck, recalling step 2, determine whether you want to have the last boards overhanging the header or flush. If overhanging (photo A), fasten clips to the outside edge of the header, with approximately 16" spacing between each one. If flush (photo B), mount the last clips to the last deck boards on the joists behind the header and attach these last clips from underneath the deck.



Step 13: Flush Skirt Boards

Where you wish to have skirt boards flush with surface of deck boards (photo B above), we recommend the use of 1/4" thick strips of pressure treated wood vertically on headers and rim joists every 16" to create an air space between the

deck boards and the skirt boards. This minimizes build-up of debris and allows air circulation between wood surfaces. Attach skirt boards with 3" deck screws (not supplied).



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