



GEMTHANE DEX-N-DOX BOARDS INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

STORAGE

- Store boards on a flat and level surface in the original strapped bundles
- Leave factory-applied protective wrap on the product
- Use care when handling product with a forklift as forks can easily damage the wood and the coating
- Do not drop or throw boards or bundles

PREPARING THE SUB-STRUCTURE

If using Dex-N-Dox boards on an existing joist structure, check to make sure that all joists are level and structurally sound, and that there are no obstacles such as nails or screws protruding from the top.

Proper joist spacing is as follows:

- Do not exceed 16" on center for applications with boards perpendicular to joists.
- For boards on a 45° angle, such as a herringbone pattern, the joist spacing should not exceed 12" center to center.

Tip: On **docks**, heavy stringers are often used and these may be on 24" or 32" centers. This is permissible so long as there are parallel 2" x 8" or 2" x 10" joists in between the stringers to support your Dex-N-Dox Deck Boards.

USING "JOIST SHIELD" TO WATERPROOF THE JOISTS

To ensure longevity of the joists, you may wish to lay a strip of self-adhesive waterproof tape along the top edge of each joist. Two examples are Gorilla Tape from Gorilla Glue Corp and Vycor Deck Protector from W.R. Grace. These "Joist Shield" products are not a warranty requirement for GemThane Dex-N-Dox, but are considered good building practice. The combination of Joist Shield and GemThane's Hidden Fastener System (described below) will ensure that there is no trapped moisture on the top of the joist or the underside of the deck board.

FASTENERS

NOTE: Dex-N-Dox boards are one-sided with the pigmented side up featuring a textured surface for anti-slip protection (compared to smooth wood).

Hidden Fastener Technique:

For beauty and durability, we strongly suggest the use of **Hidden Link** fasteners, available from GemThane. There will be no screw holes on top of the boards for water to penetrate, the boards will always have the correct gap (1/4") and the boards will automatically be raised off the joists so as to create an air space and prevent water entrapment on the underside of the boards. Follow separate instructions contained inside boxes of **Hidden Link** fasteners (also downloadable from the Installation section of our website [www.gemthanesiding.com]).

Screw-From-The-Top Technique:

Using screws from the top is also an acceptable method when the following steps are followed:

- 1) Use proper pre-coated deck screws, available from your building supply retailer. The use of any other type of screw voids the GemThane warranty.
- 2) There must be an air space separating the joists from each Dex-N-Dox board to ensure proper drainage and prevent water entrapment on the underside of the boards. This can best be achieved by stapling a strip of "GemThane Drainage Spacer" along the top of each joist. Rolls of GemThane Drainage Spacer are available at no charge from the GemThane factory. **Failure to create this air space voids the Dex-N-Dox warranty.**
- 3) Leave a space of 1/4" to 5/16" between boards (the thickness of a carpenter's pencil is the minimum recommended space).
- 4) Use two screws per deck board wherever each one intersects with a joist.

Note: Problems or failures originating at screw holes are not covered by the Dex-N-Dox warranty since the integrity of the coating on the board surface has been broken and it is the responsibility of the installer to reseal the screw holes properly using **GemThane Cottage Coat**.

Wherever Two Boards Butt Together

Wherever two boards are butted end to end, provide extra support by screwing an 8" long strip of suitable pressure treated or pre-coated wood to both sides of the joist¹. When using the Hidden Fastener Technique, the use of such "**Support Blocks**" allows for a **Hidden Link** clip to anchor each of the abutting boards separately. When using the Screw-From-The-Top Technique, the use of Support Blocks allows the screws to be placed well back from the end of the board, thus minimizing the risk of splitting the end grain of the board. See Illustration 1. **Always leave a 1/4" gap between abutting board ends.**

¹ (e.g. some left-over joist wood or some 2" x 6" pre-coated with GemThane Cottage Coat)

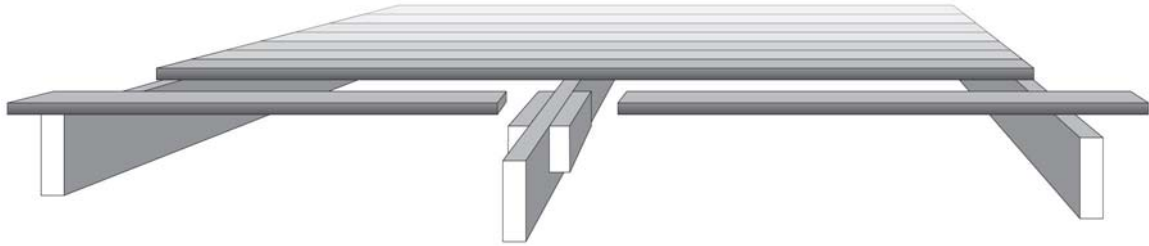


Illustration #1: Support Blocks flank joists where boards butt together. Add a strip of GemThane Drainage Spacer on top of the Support Blocks where Screw-From-The-Top Technique is being used Always leave a 1/4" gap between abutting ends of boards

COATING DURING DECK INSTALLATION

Board Ends

Use ***GemThane Cottage Coat*** to seal all of the board ends ***even if they have not been cut on site***. This is critical, as end grains are extra absorbent and require additional coating on site even if the board has not been cut by the installer. Each ***Cottage Coat*** kit contains instructions for use.

Screw Holes and Damaged Areas

All screw holes, exposed wood and damaged coating must be touched up using ***GemThane Cottage Coat***.

Note: ***GemThane Cottage Coat*** is a marine-grade polymer coating available in kit form from your Dex-N-Dox retailer

Tip: Use a Q-Tip or artists brush for screw heads and a small regular paint brush for board ends. See Illustration # 2.
Wipe excess coating from the surface of the board.

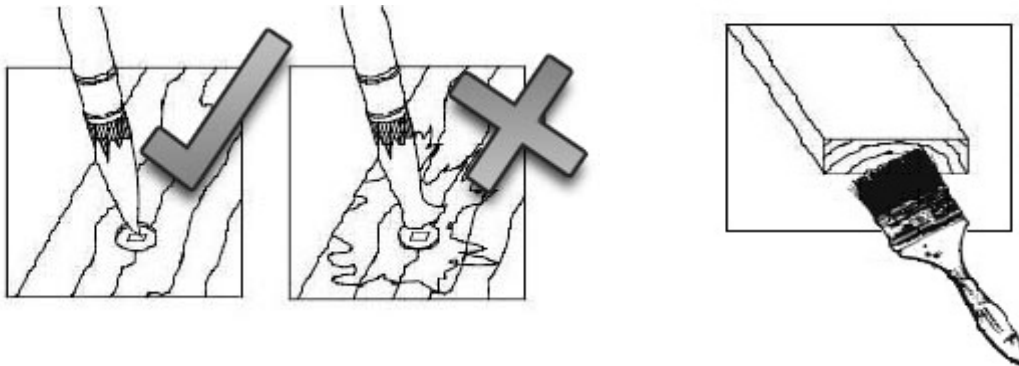


Illustration #2: Touching Up Exposed Wood and Board Ends

FINAL ON-SITE COATING

When all Dex-N-Dox boards have been installed, apply a light final coat (a “Seal Coat”) of **GemThane Cottage Coat** on all of the surfaces. Where **Hidden Link** fasteners have been used, make especially certain to coat the edges of each board at the location of each fastener, so as to seal the side edge where it has been penetrated by screws. When mixing **Cottage Coat** prior to use, add 15 to 25% GemThane VR-2 Reducer to the usual mix of 1 part ‘A’ and 4 parts ‘B’, as the Seal Coat does not need to be thick. A 2” paint brush is ideal for reaching down into the edges of the boards and a sponge roller is the preferred method of applying the Seal Coat to the top surface of the boards. For extra skid resistance, e.g. on stairs, broadcast sandblaster’s sand into the Seal Coat and lock it in with a second Seal Coat. Factory-finished surface is textured but will be slippery when wet, especially at or below freezing temperatures.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The guidelines below will help to keep your deck or dock looking its best:

Seasonal: Wash your Dex-N-Dox boards periodically using a stiff broom, hot water, some liquid dishwashing soap and a household cleanser like “Comet” to remove food and beverage spills, dirt and debris. Use GemThane VR-2 Reducer to remove tree sap and GemThane Rust Remover to remove rust stains. Rinse with regular tap water. Avoid concentrated bleach or other strong oxidants as these chemicals may alter the appearance of the finish. Power washing with soapy water is also a good way of refreshing the appearance. Keep pressure at less than 1,000 psi.

Annual: Owner must do annual inspection and touch-up to ensure that damaged or disbonded areas are protected against water penetration. Lightly but thoroughly roughen affected area with coarse sandpaper (80 grit). Use a sanding block or a square pad electric vibrating sander. Touch up affected area with 2 coats of **Dex-N-Dox Resurfacer Polymer Sealant**.

Every 6-8 years: Lightly and thoroughly roughen entire surface as above and apply two light “Refresher Coats” of Dex-N-Dox Resurfacer at the rate of about 400 square feet per gallon per coat. The most popular application method is sponge roller. If bare wood is exposed in some areas, spot-prime with the same product first.

WARRANTY

Owners must register on line at www.GemthaneSiding.com to activate their 20/5 Dex-N-Dox warranty.