



Recommended Joist Spacing for Ipe Decking

Contractor Quick Sheet

■ Quick Reference: Joist Spacing by Board Thickness

Board Thickness	Max Joist Spacing
¾" (1x nominal)	16" on center
1" (5/4 nominal)	24" on center
1½" (2x nominal)	32" on center

■ Perpendicular vs. Diagonal Installation

Installation Pattern	1x Boards	5/4x Boards	2x Boards
Perpendicular (Standard)	16" O.C.	24" O.C.	32" O.C.
Diagonal (45°)	12" O.C.	16" O.C.	24" O.C.

For diagonal installation, reduce spacing by one increment to maintain structural integrity.

■ Face-Screw vs. Hidden Fastener Considerations

Method	Spacing Impact	Best For	Notes
Face Screw	Standard OK	Max hold-down, borders	Pre-drill required
Hidden Clip (Ipe Clip®)	Standard OK	Clean surface	Requires grooved boards
Edge Fastener (CAMO)	Standard OK	Speed, no groove	Pre-drill for hardwood

■ Critical Installation Notes

DO:

- ✓ Ensure joists are level and properly crowned (crown up)
- ✓ Allow 3/32" gap between boards (air-dried) or 1/4" (kiln-dried)
- ✓ Stagger end joints — never align adjacent board ends on same joist
- ✓ Maintain minimum 18" ventilation clearance below deck
- ✓ Pitch deck ¼" per 10 ft away from structure (standard decking)
- ✓ Pitch deck ¼" per 1 ft for tongue & groove applications



Recommended Joist Spacing for Ipe Decking

Contractor Quick Sheet

DON'T:

- ✗ Exceed recommended joist spacing for board profile
- ✗ Install T&G; decking without overhead cover
- ✗ Block airflow with solid skirting (use vented skirting)
- ✗ Install directly over concrete pad without sleeper system

■ Joist Material Compatibility

Joist Material	Compatible?	Notes
Pressure-Treated Pine	✓ Yes	Most common; Ipe protects from above
Steel/Aluminum	✓ Yes	Use appropriate fasteners
Ipe Joists	✓ Yes	Premium option; carbide tools required
Composite	✗ No	Not structural; do not use as joist

Always verify with local building codes. This guide is for reference only.