

DeckWise® • The Ipe Clip® Fastener Company, LLC • 2111 58th Ave. E, Bradenton, FL 34203
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Step 1: Installing the starter board

Apply WiseWrap® JoistTape™ or a bead of exterior adhesive to each joist approximately 3/8" in width. For adhesives, you may want to do this as you go so that, it does not dry before completion if you have a larger area to install. While adhesive adds hold-down strength to the boards, it does not prevent wood rot. WiseWrap® JoistTape™ prevents joist wood rot as well as seals around deck screws. Even though joists may seem even, changes in weather can cause board movement. Both WiseWrap® JoistTape™ and/or adhesive will also help prevent squeaking from unlevel joists.



STEP 2: Drill a 1/8" pilot hole

Use a 1/8" drill bit to pre-drill pilot holes every 24" along the ledger board to secure the starter board. Drill deep enough to penetrate the deck board and not the underlying ledger. All ThermoClip™ Hidden Deck Fastener systems, 175 count and above, include a 1/8" high speed drill bit. We suggest using the 3-in-1 DeckWise® Drill&Drive™ (not included in ThermoClip™ Fastener kits), which has a 1/8" drill bit, 3/8" countersink bit, and screw gun T15 tip that will help speed up this process.



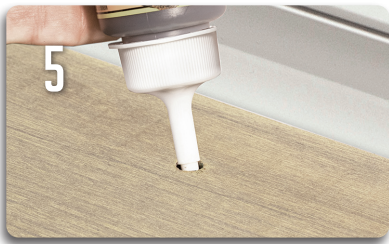
STEP 3: Drill a 3/8" countersink hole approximately 3/8" deep

Use a 3/8" countersink bit to bore a hole approximately 1/4" to 3/8" deep (depending on your deck board thickness) for each screw to be hidden by a ThermoPlug™ wood plug. Be sure your countersink bit is sharp and leaves a clean edge.



STEP 4: Install deck screws through the countersunk hole

Next, firmly drive a deck screw down into the countersunk hole into the joist below. All ThermoClip™ fastener kits, 175 count and above, have extra stainless steel deck screws included in them for starter boards. (Wood plugs will next be installed into the countersunk holes to hide the deck screws and create a smooth, family friendly surface free of screw heads.)



STEP 5: Gluing plugs (POLYURETHANE BASED RECOMMENDED)

Place a drop of wood glue (Gorilla Glue® is suggested) into the countersink hole from the above steps. This will guarantee the wood plug from popping up in the future. Plus, it will act as a moisture barrier, sealing the countersunk hole and screw.

STEP 6: Insert ThermoPlug™ wood plug

Insert a 3/8" tapered ThermoPlug™ wood plug and tap it down with a hammer so it fits snug into the hole. Wipe away any excess glue that may squeeze out. (NOTE: We always encourage finding the wood grain in the plug and aligning it with the deck board wood grain. This will help ensure the plug is hidden as much as possible on the surface.) When installing hardwood plugs, Gorilla Glue® reaches 80% cure after just 1-2 hours. For best drying results a 24 hour wait period will achieve a 100% cure before trimming excess plug material.

NOTE: We always encourage finding the wood grain in the plug and aligning it with the deck board grain. This will help ensure the plug is hidden as much as possible.

STEP 7: Flush cut excess plug material

Once the plug is hammered in and the glue is dry, remove any excess plug material protruding above the surface of the deck board. You can accomplish this by using a flush cut pull saw, belt sander or an orbital sander with 80 grit sand paper.

STEP 8: Sand for wood finishing

Sand smooth all areas where a wood plug was installed so the plug is flush with deck surface. A round, random orbit sander with 80-120 grit sand paper works best. When sanding is finished, Apply WiseCoat® water-based Wood Sealer or Ipe Oil® and Ipe Oil® Plus™ Hardwood Deck Finish oil-based formulas. Each are deep penetrating for Thermally Modified Wood, Hardwoods, and most wood decking.

Tools Needed

ELECTRIC SCREW GUN

Used to drill pilot holes and for installing the stainless steel screws.

CAULK GUN & EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE

Used as a leveling agent for uneven joists.

WISEWRAP® JOISTTAPE™

Used to prevent joist wood rot as well as seals around deck screws.

WOOD GLUE

Polyurethane based recommended.

HAMMER

Used to tap plug into countersunk hole.

FLUSH CUT PULL SAW, BELT SANDER OR AN ORBITAL SANDER

A round, random orbit sander with 80-120 grit sand paper works best.



(We suggest using the DeckWise® Drill&Drive™ (included in Master Plug Kit), which is a 3-in-1 drill bit, countersink bit, and screwgun T15 tip that will help speed up this process.)