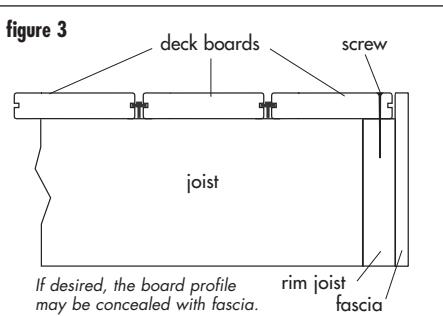






## TIPS FOR SLOTTED DECKING INSTALLATION, CONTINUED



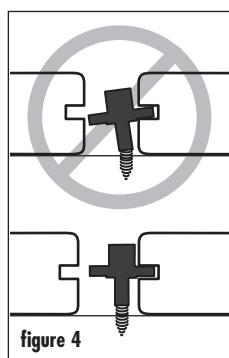
On the other side of the board, place an Equator hidden fastener into the slot and center on the joist (figure 3). Install a #8, 2" stainless steel screw at a 90° angle through the Equator fastener and drive flush. Do not overtighten. The fastener wings must remain level with the joist for the next board to fit correctly (figure 4). Install one Equator fastener at each joist location. Slide the next board into place so the wings on the previous fasteners fit into the slot on the side of the board. Make sure the side gap between the boards is 1/4".

To keep the interior boards from moving over time, we recommend pinning the boards at the center of their length using a #8, 2" stainless steel

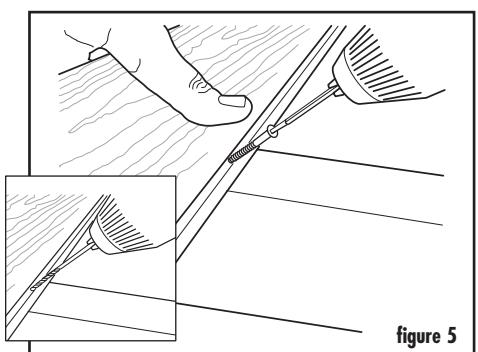
screw. This holds the deck board in place at the center of each board and allows the decking to expand/contract at the ends of the boards. Pre-drill in the slot of the deck board with an 1/8" drill bit (inset of figure 5). Drive screw into the slot so it's flush with the bottom of the groove (figure 5).

This will allow you to properly fit an Equator hidden fastener into the slot. Install Equator hidden fastener clip over the screw and centered over the joist. Fasten using a #8, 2" stainless steel screw at a 90° angle through the Equator hidden fastener and drive flush with the clip (figure 6). The fastener wings must remain level with the joist for the next board to fit correctly (figure 4).

Install one Equator fastener at each joist location along the length of the board. For installations where deck boards are butted end-to-end at the joist, we recommend adding an 8" block and using an Equator hidden

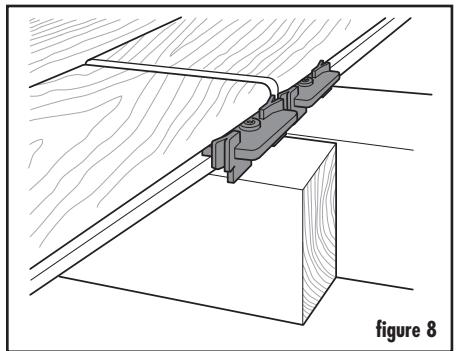
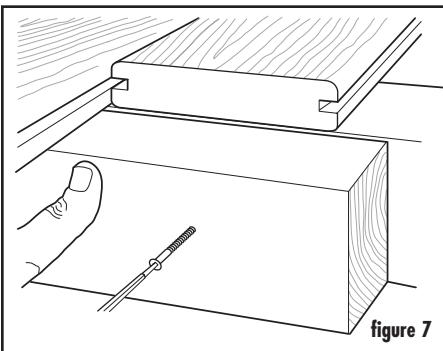
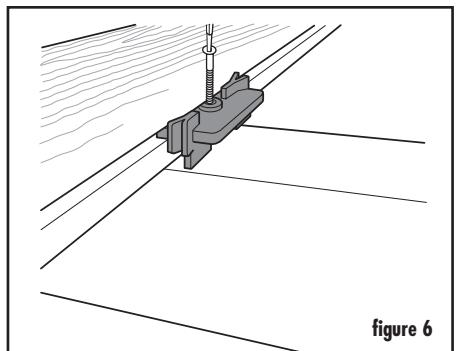


fastener clip at the end of each board (figures 7 and 8). Be sure to gap the boards as previously described. Repeat the process for each board until the outside edge of the final board is fastened with screws. Use fascia to conceal the board profile and inhibit board movement over time. If no fascia is being used, the entire



perimeter of the deck should be fastened to the rim joist with screws. Use two fasteners at the end of each board. These screws will be inconspicuous once the railing is installed.

Apply these same principles when installing stair treads.



**Color variation:** Like most composites, Latitudes Decking and Railing will have color variations from piece to piece. This is due to naturally occurring variations in wood fibers and polymers. Purchasing all required decking material at one time is recommended, as manufacturing runs can produce slightly different colors. Do not install if color variation is not acceptable. Latitudes will lighten over time, and color variation is not covered by the warranty. This color-tone shift is dependent upon exposure to sunlight and other environmental factors, and is generally completed in 60 to 90 days. Gray products may turn a light brown before changing to lighter gray. **Preventing mold and mildew growth on composite decking:** Mold and mildew can be a nuisance on any exterior building surface, regardless of the material. If the conditions are right, they will spawn on wood, plastic, concrete, metal and other surfaces. Mold formation is most prevalent in consistently wet, shaded areas. Spores from the natural environment are carried by the wind and commonly land on decks surfaces. It is important to note that the appearance of mold/mildew is a function of nature, not necessarily a deficiency with any of the material on which it grows.

**Cleaning:** Periodic washing with soap/detergent and water will help remove surface dirt. This will also help prevent the buildup of pollen, debris and spores that can cause and accelerate mold/mildew growth.

**CAUTION:** A pressure washer should not be used to "blast" mold/mildew or soils from a deck surface. The abrasive nature of the water stream can potentially damage the material by driving the spores into the material, which may create a more challenging problem to remediate. A pressure washer with a fan-tipped nozzle should be used only to lightly wet or rinse wood or composite deck surfaces. There are many deck wash and exterior cleaning products available at retail. It is important to make sure you use a cleaner specifically intended for your application. After selecting a product, be certain to read, understand and follow all instructions supplied by the manufacturer. Some cleaning products and inhibitors may be more effective than others, depending on the environmental conditions your deck is subjected to. Additionally, it is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it to the entire deck. **Mold inhibitors:** As with deck washes, there are several mold-inhibitor products available from paint stores, hardware stores, online outlets and home centers to help prevent long-term mold/mildew growth. For any product selected, be certain to read, understand and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. Depending upon the environmental factors affecting your deck, some preventive cleaning products may be more effective than others. It may be necessary to try more than one product. For ongoing preventive maintenance, follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

Latitudes is not suitable for structural use. It should not be used for primary load-bearing members such as posts, joists, beams or stringers. The same common-sense precautions should be taken when handling Latitudes as with wood or other building materials. Dust masks and eye protection devices are recommended to avoid possible irritation from sawdust and chips. Gloves will help to protect the hands. Hands should be washed after doing construction work. The diagrams and instructions in this brochure are for illustration purposes only and are not meant to replace a licensed professional. Any construction or use of the product must be in accordance with all local zoning and/or building codes. The consumer assumes all risks and liability associated with the construction or use of this product. The consumer or contractor should take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project, including, but not limited to, wearing the appropriate safety equipment. EXCEPT AS CONTAINED IN THE WRITTEN LIMITED WARRANTY, UNIVERSAL CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INC., DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER WARRANTY, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES, INCLUDING CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.







