

# FAQs

## What are the characteristics of Ipé?

Ipé is procured from Brazil and is machined there as well. It is one of the hardest and most dense species known. With a weight of approximately 6 lbs. per board foot (net), it offers superior durability and rot/decay resistance that even pressure treated products cannot surpass. Naturally medium dark brown in color, Ipé has a smooth texture that is less likely to splinter and peel up like some other woods, thus reducing splinters and unsightly raised grain seen commonly on weathered decks after a few years.

## To stain or not to stain?

Ipé can be left in the raw and over time will weather to a silver/gray color. On the other hand, to help preserve the beauty and color of Ipé, a stain coating can be applied. Before applying any type of stain, wash and brush the surface to remove any dust and dirt or sticker marks.

## How do I reduce end cracking?

During installation, exposed end grain after sawing can quickly produce end checking/end cracks. To help reduce end check a wax based emulsion is recommended.

## What type of fasteners or fastening system should I use?

Stainless steel screws or Stainless steel pneumatic nails are your best bet. Because of the high density of Ipé, pre-drilling will be required before installing the screws. Some fastening systems now offer the benefit of hidden screws thus giving your project a nice finished look. There are a number of hardware and fastening system suppliers that can recommend the best product for your requirements.

## What type of tools do I need to construct an Ipé deck?

Ipé can be worked with conventional carbide tipped saw blades and drill bits. The tool life of high-speed steel will be greatly shortened when cutting or drilling Ipé.

## What type of spacing is recommended between boards?

When installing the decking boards, a 1/16" spacing between boards is generally recommended. This will allow for proper air circulation between boards but also minimizes gap width after the natural seasoning of the lumber takes place.

## What type of warranty does Ipé carry?

This species of wood requires no chemicals to maintain an impenetrable surface to wood decay and insects. These natural characteristics allow Infiinte Decking™ to carry a 25-year warranty.

## Should I apply a finish to my deck?

Infinite Decking™ offers a beautiful aesthetic with a consistent graining, that is knot free. The natural color of Infinite Decking™ is rich and luxurious and will maintain its appearance when covered with a penetrating finish.

## What type of surfacing does Infinite Decking™ offer?

Available through special order only, Infinite Decking™ offers a slip resistant decking surface which is perfect for commercial applications. This beaded product has enhanced skid resistant characteristics compared to smooth surface decking. The beaded product also has a side groove which allows for quick and easy installation of hidden fastening systems.

## How durable is Ipé?

Infinite Decking™, a hardwood species named Ipé, is three times more dense than oak giving it tremendous strength to cover large spans.

## What should I be aware of when constructing?

We can supply you with all the visually appealing parts of your project: pickets, posts, handrail and decking. As for the load-bearing portion of the substructure, a high quality pressure treated product works fine. Remember that the burden of weathering will be subjected to the deckboards and other Ipé parts thus sheltering the substructure and eliminating the need for Ipé in those locations. The use of these two makes the best combination from both cost and practical standpoint.

## Will my deck withstand normal wear and tear?

Ipé is an air-dried product and this minimizes expansion problems that are often seen in composite/plastic materials as well as other wood species. Although Ipé has a smooth texture, it is normal to see some minor surface checking as the deck ages and weathers. This in no way will affect the strength or durability of your Infinite Decking™. UV inhibiting coatings will help to maintain your Ipés' natural Walnut color. You have your choice in a variety of sizes of Infinite Decking™ parts to give your project a perfect finished look.