

## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) indicates that the wood used to make the product comes from a forest which is well managed according to strict environmental, social and economic standards. The forest of origin has been independently inspected and evaluated according to the principles and criteria for forest management agreed and approved by certifying bodies accredited by the FSC to the FSC standards. FSC is an international, non-profit association whose membership comprises environmental and social groups and progressive forestry and wood retail companies working in partnership to improve forest management worldwide.

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### Disclaimer

Our Cumaru decking materials are carefully manufactured and inspected to ensure quality. However, Cumaru is a natural wood product and as such is subject to variations in weight, density, color, grain and performance. Wood decking is subject to dimensional changes as the moisture content in the wood changes with the humidity in the air. Swelling, shrinkage, checking and other movement of individual pieces are normal occurrences in natural wood decking.

Sizes, pricing and specifications are subject to change without notice.

Local building codes must be consulted when building an exterior deck. Most counties require building permits.

These guidelines are intended to provide the installer with basic instructions to properly install residential decking systems that utilize Cumaru lumber. However, the installer, and/or purchaser of any Cumaru product is solely responsible for interpreting specific job conditions, determining the suitability of use or application of Cumaru, or whether structures meet requirements of applicable building and/or safety codes for specific applications. In no event shall Mendocino Forest Products Co. be liable for labor, installation/ reinstallation or for any indirect, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages of any kind whatsoever from the provision of this information.



## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified Cumaru Kiln Dried Hardwood Decking

### **Installation Guidelines**

*Be sure to complete this checklist:*

- Outdoor use only
- Material stored out of direct sunlight and weather
- Material allowed to equalize at site
- Spacing @ 1/4" for 6" boards
- Adequate cross ventilation under deck
- Span of 24" max for 5/4x6" boards
- Stainless steel fasteners
- Pre-drilling required
- Counter-sinking screws required
- Seal end cuts with *Anchorseal* wax
- Use oil based finish on all 4 sides

*Please follow enclosed installation instructions...*



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## Storage and Handling

For best results, Cumaru decking should be kept out of direct sunlight and not exposed to weather before installation. Although Cumaru is kiln dried, it needs a few weeks to equalize to the ambient moisture content.

Once a deck package is delivered to the jobsite, most of the equalization has already occurred. Keep the material off the ground by placing a few pieces of lumber underneath the deck package.

## Material Application

**Spacing:** Deck boards 6” wide should be installed with a 1/4” space between the boards. This space will allow for air circulation, room for expansion and provide for the proper spacing as boards become fully seasoned. Approximate shrinkage and/or swelling is 1/4” on 6” decking. There is almost no shrinkage or expansion on Cumaru decking lengthwise, so trimmed ends can be butted together tightly.

**Span:** You must consult local building codes to be sure you are following local regulations. Generally, 5/4x6” boards can be installed 24” on center. When installing on an angle, joist spacing should be 12” on center.

**Ground-side Ventilation:** Build your deck so that the surface is at least 16” above the ground. There must be adequate air circulation underneath the deck in order to prevent cupping/warping of boards. An open lattice type fascia is best if the deck is close to the ground. In wet areas or over water, additional clearance is recommended. In close to ground applications a vapor barrier may be necessary to prevent moisture from absorbing into the underside of the deck boards.

## Required Equipment

Carbide tipped saw blades and a high quality drill and drill bits are recommended to cut Cumaru. Ripping can be done on a standard table saw, using a well-aligned fence.

Routing or planing can be done with both high speed steel or carbide cutters. Feed speed should be fairly slow. Sanding is recommended to complete your project.

**Safety Concerns:** Safety glasses and a dust mask should always be worn when working with hardwood lumber. Some people may have an allergic reaction to hardwood dust. Remove wood splinters immediately to prevent infection.

**Fasteners:** Strongly recommend using stainless steel screws through the face of every board. Non-stainless steel fasteners may cause discoloration near the screw. Pre-drill a pilot hole 3/4” from the end of the board and 3/4” in from the sides of the board and counter-sink them. Use two screws per board at the suggested span spacing. Use a positive stop so all screw heads end up at a consistent depth. Be sure not to let the fastener sink too deep into the wood. The counter-sunk screws should penetrate 1-1/2” or more into the deck joists. Fasteners may be lubricated for easier assembly.

Screwing the face of each board down into the joist is the only method of installation we recommend. Plugs 1/4”x3/8” may be used to hide #10 bugle head fasteners.

**End Sealer:** Apply UC Coatings’ *Anchorseal*, an aqueous wax, to the ends of the boards immediately after a cut is made. This will ensure board stability and prevent cupping and severe checking of the ends. Use care when applying *Anchorseal* or other wax product on ends only and not on the surface of the deck boards. Be advised that any wax product may cause color or shading changes in wood. Test on the ends of sample piece(s) and let stand for 48 hours if this possibility is of concern.

## Finishing Options

In order to help prevent surface checking, cupping and discoloration, we recommend Cumaru decking be finished on all four sides, prior to or immediately after installation. Finishing the underside of your deck will reduce potential cupping by inhibiting moisture from absorbing into the wood. Especially in dry, sunny conditions, finishing should be done prior to exposure to weather.

If a weathered silver color is desired, finishing can be done with a water seal product. Apply as soon as possible during or after installation of the deck. For best results, apply the treatment according to the manufacturer’s directions.

To maintain the reddish-brown color, a high quality oil finish with UV inhibitors should be used. Two thin coats of finish should be applied during installation. However, due to the density of the product, the coats should be wiped off between applications. Wiping off between coats prevents the finish from becoming tacky or bubbling on the surface of the wood. Reapply as necessary to maintain desired look and always follow the manufacturer’s directions.

The natural density and alkaline content of Cumaru can cause a reaction with certain finishes affecting their drying and adhesion. A color change may also occur. A test on some sample pieces is suggested to ensure desired results.

Cumaru decking can also be pressure washed, but you must be careful not to damage the surface fibers by setting the pressure too high. Pressure washing may be necessary between oil treatments in order to remove surface discoloration.