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## Iron Woods Wood Deck Tile Installation, Care and Maintenance

**Wood Characteristics:** Iron Woods 12"x12" Deck Tiles are made of naturally durable hardwood which contain a rich variety of graining and coloration. The natural shading, coloration and graining variations add to the architectural character and overall visual appeal of the finished product. As with all Iron Woods brand products Iron Woods Deck Tiles are exceptionally dense and naturally resistant to rot, insects, fire and wear. Iron Woods Deck Tiles come unfinished. We leave it to the homeowner to decide if they want to finish the tiles with a penetrating oil based wood sealer or let them weather naturally to a silver grey patina.

**Design Layout:** Download some free graph paper off the internet. Each square equals 1 tile or 1 square foot. Draw the perimeter of the area to be covered. Layout a 12 inch grid pattern starting at the outside edges of the project moving inward towards the building walls. Tiles can be installed in mosaic or linear patterns which provides unique design options.

**Tile Connection:** Timber Holdings strongly recommends the use of Iron Woods EPDM pedestals with attachment pins. The Iron Woods Deck Tile System installs quickly and securely allowing for tile removal and reinstallation if required. Replacement attachment pins are available should pins be damaged during installation, removal or re-installation. Connector Pedestals are scored for separation into halves or quarters for use at perimeters and corner placement. Deck Tiles are 1-1/2" thick. Iron Woods EPDM Pedestal is 3/8" thick. Total height of system is 1-7/8".

Note\* A minimum of 3/8" or 10mm under tile spacing is recommended for best movement and drainage of water from under deck tiles.

**Quantities:** Square footage (1 tile per square foot) of the area to be covered = number of tiles required. Square footage (1 connector per square foot) + perimeter lineal footage (1 connector per 2 lineal foot of perimeter) = Total connectors required.

**Boarders:** While boarders are not required hardwood boarders can be custom fabricated by any carpenter by shaping 2x hardwood material to the desired profile and length. Using a corner connector as a template drill 5/16" diameter holes at connector pin locations and apply boarder.

**Cutting:** Cutting: Carbide tipped finish cut blades are highly recommended. Wood tiles have a very high density and a slower feed rate is recommended when cutting tiles. Remove any screws from the deck tiles which might be located in the cutting path. In order to minimize checking (small cracks) the installer must seal any cut ends with Anchorseal®. Apply sealer with a brush to the cut ends only, being very careful to not get any on the top surface of the wood so as not to impact the appearance of tiles.

**General Safety Precautions:** Cutting, Grinding, or Sanding should be done outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Wear safety glasses with side shields when handling, cutting, sanding, or grinding this material. Use a face shield for processes that may generate excessive dusts and splinters. Wear puncture resistant work gloves, such as leather when handling. Respirators must be worn if the ambient concentration of airborne contaminants exceeds prescribed exposure limits. Dust masks may be worn to avoid the inhalation of nuisance dust.



**Storage:** Keep product out of direct sunlight until it is ready to be installed. Wood tiles should not be stored tightly wrapped in plastic. Wood tiles will adjust to the climate equilibrium where they are installed and may have or develop some slight cracking or checking as a natural response to the acclimation process.

**Natural Aging:** Left to weather naturally wood tiles will naturally develop a silvery-gray patina over time. Note: each board has unique characteristics and will weather at different rates depending on climatic conditions and amount of UV exposure. Shrinkage, cracks and changes in the wood tile is natural.

**Cleaning & Sealing:** If desired, Wood Tiles can be periodically cleaned and sealed. Wood stabilizers or sealants can help mitigate the loss of moisture on the top of the boards and minimize checking and splitting. The installer can wax or seal the ends of the wood if desired. *Note: small checks and splits are normal and a natural part of the wood.* Use cleaning and sealing products specifically designed for use with exotic hardwoods. *Important: Timber Holdings recommends that you test any cleaners or sealants in an inconspicuous area first before applying them to the installed deck. Cleaners or sealants should not be used over rubber roof membrane without specific approval by the roof membrane manufacturer.*

**Maintaining Tile Color:** To better maintain the rich coloration of the tiles, you can clean your deck tiles and re-apply a penetrating oil finish with UV blocker as tiles begin to fade. The amount of direct and indirect sunlight, shading, temperature, humidity, moisture and other local conditions will factor into maintenance schedule. Penetrating oil based finishes offer UV protection as well as mold and mildew protection. Before applying any finish, first clean and remove any residue from the wood tile as described above. Then wipe on and wipe off finish not unlike polishing your favorite piece of furniture. Over application of oils will result in a sticky deck surface. *Important: Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.*

**Periodic Cleaning:** We recommend using a deck cleaning products which safely clean the wood and kill mold spores. To restore the pH balance of the deck, use an oxalic acid based deck brightener. The deck tiles are ready to re-seal once they are cleaned. *Important: Always test any product you apply in an inconspicuous place to make sure it performs as you expect.*

**Pressure Washing:** You may also use a pressure washer to remove built-up dirt, mold or mildew from your wood tiles. Caution: use the lowest PSI for the species of wood you are cleaning. A maximum of 1200 PSI is suggested for Wood Tiles. We also recommend using a professional deck cleaning contractor. *Important: Test an inconspicuous area first and be careful to use the wand in even strokes to avoid lap marks.*

**See Iron Woods Best Practices Guide for additional information.**