Tools and Items Needed

- Drill/power screwdriver
- 1/8” drill bit
- Table saw
- Circular saw with carbide-tip blade
- Rubber mallet
- Chisel or board straightener tool
- Applicable Cortex fastening system (recommended) or 2 1/2” composite wood deck screws or other top mount screw.
- Tape measure
- Carpenter’s pencil
- Safety glasses/goggles
- Router Table or Router

Dexerdry is intended to utilize the area under decks, porches and balconies increasing outdoor living space. Following these instructions will provide a dry zone and make installation more enjoyable. Utilizing the frieze board, the Drip Edge and gutters when needed are essential in the Dexerdry installation process.

Seams
Dexerdry must be installed without seams. It runs continuously in long lengths that correspond to the deck board lengths: 12’, 16’, and 20’. Instructions for decks larger than 20’ will be provided.

Concept
Dexerdry fits into the “slots” of the boards which were originally intended for hidden fasteners. Dexerdry now offers multiple profiles which will fit different deck boards. **CAUTION** - be sure to purchase, use and install the proper Dexerdry profile for the deck boards you will be using! Dexerdry installs into these grooves to create the Dry Zone. The deck boards must be attached with top mount fasteners. We recommend the applicable Cortex fasteners for best appearance.

Drip Edge
Dexerdry requires a “drip edge” to be cut 7/16” deep into the bottom of both ends of every board, approximately 3/4” to 1” from the end. This should be done prior to installation. The drip edge eliminates water from wicking through the groove and getting trapped in the flange. This water does not come from the top surface of the deck but from the side of the boards as the water runs off and finds its way into the grooves due to “capillary action.” The drip edge interrupts this flow and stops it before it can continue, so the drip edge must be deep enough to reach the groove of the deck board.
Slope
Dexerdry decks require 1/8” per foot of framing to allow proper runoff. One of the most frequently asked questions is, “Should the framing be changed if the boards run away from the house?” No – The flanges were designed to fill up the majority of the gap so the deck can be framed conventionally with the deck boards running parallel to the house. Instructions are provided for both parallel and perpendicular deck boards.

Railings
Dexerdry recommends “surface mounted posts” for railings. Suggestions for decks that require standard posts due to building codes will be provided.

Frieze Board
Dexerdry decks start at the wall where the first piece of Dexerdry is inserted into a frieze board routed with a groove along the entire length. The groove dimensions will correspond to the groove in the decking. The frieze board should be used in all applications and can be of a variety of materials.

Installation of the Frieze Board
Rout a groove into a 5/4” x 4” length of PVC trim. This board is installed against the house along the entire length of the deck. The groove dimensions should correspond to the slot of the decking. Keep the frieze board perfectly straight against the house, shimming where needed. The frieze board must be 3” wider than the framing on each side. The 5/4” can be any dimension, but at least 5/4” x 4” is recommended. A length of decking can be used as well.

First Piece of Dexerdry
Using a rubber mallet, start at either end and tap the Dexerdry into the grooved frieze board. It should fit snugly with the vertical part of the flange pressed up against the vertical face of the trim board. A pair of conduit cutters, also called PVC pipe cutters, are suggested for cutting Dexerdry.
**First Deck Board**

NOTE: All deck boards will require “Dexerdry Drip Edge”, a 7/16” deep cut on the bottom of each end of every board, 3/4” to 1” in from the ends. Let the boards overhang 1 3/8” for Picture Frame. Once the drip edge is implemented, inspect the grooves in the board and remove any debris. Using the rubber mallet, install the first deck board against the frieze board making sure the first piece of Dexerdry fits snugly into the grooved deck board. Cinch the deck board tightly using a chisel and a block of wood or a tool designed to pull the deck board in tightly. Using Cortex or top mounted deck screws, start from the center of the deck and install all the screws. It is important to make sure the frieze board and first deck board are straight along the house. Dexerdry is also a spacer so a straight deck depends on how straight the first board is installed. The first board should be cut to the exact length desired before installation.

**Continue Deck Boards/Dexerdry Installation**

The next piece of Dexerdry will now be tapped into the groove of the board just installed using the rubber mallet. The rest of the Dexerdry and deck boards can run long and be trimmed later with a circular saw using a straight edge or chalk line. Remember to cut the drip edge into the bottom ends of each board prior to installation and check all the grooves of the decking to ensure they are free from any dirt or damage. Cinch the decking tightly against the Dexerdry flange using a chisel and a block of wood and start attaching the board, preferably working from the center out using the top mount screws. Repeat this installation process throughout the rest of the deck until the last few boards.

**Final Few Grooved Deck Boards**

Framing tip: Since the deck is started at the house, the final edge should be a full deck board. This is achieved by NOT cutting the ends of the joists until the deck is about three to four boards from the end. Accurately measure where to cut the joists by measuring where three more rows of decking will end. Measure back from that point deducting the overhang, the thickness of the fascia board and the thickness of the “box” material (usually 1 5/8”). We recommend doubling all the perimeter (2x) material around the entire deck. If a 2 x 10 is being used for framing, make the entire perimeter double 2 x 10s to solidly attach the surface mounted posts. Once the deck framing is complete, install the last couple of deck boards and Dexerdry but leave the very last “routed” deck boards off so it is accurately cut or mitered to allow the “picture frame” detail. Trim the extra length of the Dexerdry and deck boards with a circular saw.

**Last Deck Board**

The last deck board should be a solid, square edged board that will need to be routed on one side with the same router bit used for the frieze board groove. A continuous drip edge should be cut along the entire length of the board on the bottom about 1/2” from the edge. Use a table saw for this cut. Miter both ends 1 5/8” in and stop, then cut the rest square. This board will be 3 1/4” longer than the other deck boards. Cinch tightly against the last piece of Dexerdry and install.
Dexerdry Picture Frame

The frieze board extends 3” beyond the width of the ledger board on both sides. Cut and install 1 1/2” x 1 1/2” “sleepers” every 12” to 16” vertically to bump out the fascia. Rip a deck board 1 1/2” wide, then flip it around and rip the other side. This gets both sides from one deck board. Measure from the mitered tip of the last deck board to the frieze board, deduct 1/8” for the Dexerdry width. Rout the small end at the frieze board. Pre-drill the sides of the trim piece every 12” making sure not to screw through the ends of the Dexerdry. Make 1/8” spacers where the screws land to allow run-off to go between the fascia board and the framing, a gutter can be added later if desired. Install with 2 1/2” screws. The fascia boards can now be installed, doing the sides first, then the front.

Surface Mounted Posts

Check with your local regulatory agency for code requirements in your area prior to installing rail posts. Using surface mounted posts when installing guardrails is recommended on Dexerdry decks. Doubling up on all outside perimeter framing allows proper bolting of these posts. If building codes require bolting wooden 4x4s through the deck, the posts must be properly flashed and caulked.
Decks Over 20’ Wide

Dexerdry is intended to run in continuous lengths along the deck boards without any seams in the flanges or overlapping of the deck boards. Longer runs are achieved by incorporating a small gutter at the end of a 20’ run, gapping the decking about 1/4”, then continuing the next run. A “butt board” can also be incorporated with a gutter on each side of it. Follow all of the above instructions and install as if two 20’ decks were installed side by side. The gutter can be bent on the job with a “metal bending brake”. We suggest using copper for best results. If using aluminum, put a barrier between the aluminum and ACQ pressure-treated framing to prevent direct contact of ACQ pressure-treated wood and aluminum products.

Wrap Around Decks

When a deck wraps around the corner of the house incorporate a gutter where the two decks intersect, as if two decks were built both with a frieze board.
Deck Boards Perpendicular to the House

Install the frieze board as before along the house. Install the first deck board the same as before but first add two additional joists parallel to the ledger board and run a pitched gutter the length of the deck. Remember to implement the drip edge along the outer edge of the first board with the table saw, and on the ends of each deck board.

Pocketed Decks

The above instructions for perpendicular decks applies to any circumstance where the deck boards run long ways away from the building, such as “pocketed decks” or balconies that are set into a building.
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