

East Teak Fine Hardwoods - EastTeak.com
800.338.5636 - 800.537.3369

You have just purchased exotic hardwood decking from East Teak Fine Hardwoods, Inc. It is one of the finest species available for your project. It is also a naturally grown wood designed by the Good Lord himself. All wood species have certain characteristics that give wood its uniqueness and natural beauty. While hardwoods are inherently more durable and stable than softwoods or composites, as an exterior application there are some traits you can expect from the wood itself as well as from the handling, milling and shipping. Below are some of our observations as well as the education we have received from the pros in the industry. Please use these as a guideline to help you learn and understand the product and form reasonable expectations for your project. If we at East Teak Fine Hardwoods can be of any service, or if you can "teach an old dog new tricks" please let us know. - Many Thanks from George@ East Teak

Movement

- 1) Shrinkage - Generally 1/8" max overall side to side though can be a little more or less depending on moisture content I grain pattern. Rarely seen end to end.
- 2) Expansion - Expansion is seen more with a KD product. Approximately 1/8" overall but again can be a little more or a little less. Rarely seen end to end.
- 3) Cupping - you can expect a minimal amount of cupping. It is best-controlled and minimized with suitable acclimation and ventilation.
- 4) Curving - It is a natural tendency. The wood is adjusting to internal stresses, grain, & moisture. It is seen more in longer lengths & usually easily rectified with the use of a bow wrench.
- 5) Surface Checks - This is a natural occurrence and can not be predicted which pieces will or will not develop these and when they will occur
- 6) Cracks

Acclimation

Depending on local conditions - 3 days to 1 week is adequate to conform to local conditions. Let it the wood acclimates under cover and off of the ground.

Ventilation

Minimum 12" open space on 3 sides offers minimum needed to maintain wood stability.

Air Dry vs Kiln Dry

Depends on specie and geographical installation.

IPE - AD for more humid climates / **KD** - Is for areas with little or no humidity or for interior use.

Species imported as a KD product ie; Cumaru, Garapa, & Massaranduba would not be stable as an AD product.

Tongue & Groove

East Teak Fine Hardwoods recommends use as a KD product indoor or depending on locale, as an AD product for covered porch applications. We do not recommend T &G for an uncovered decking project. There are 2 sides to a T &G board, a square edge side with a nail groove which is the top side and a rounded edge side which is the bottom. If installed improperly, you will have issues down the road.

Defective material

Defects are actually that - defects. A grain or color you do not like is not a defect. Likewise - sticker stain and water marks are not defects - they usually occur from the storage and shipping of the product and are easily removed in the proper prepping of your deck when finishing. There may be intermittent boreholes. These are from boring beetles and occurred when the tree was living and growing. They can either be left alone as a natural occurrence and look or filled with a blend of sawdust and glue.

This as well as dirt, dust, and graying is a storage shipping issue emanating from the ports in South America. While we strive to provide you with a premium, defect free product; remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that the material you receive will be structurally sound. We urge you to look over the material as it arrives, and check for freight damage. If any is noticed, please advise the driver and sign the freight bill with notations of damage. We will replace your damaged material ASAP and we will work the claim with the freight carrier.

Read over the information provided here or call us if you have any questions. Thank you for choosing East Teak Fine Hardwoods Inc. and we wish you many years of use.