
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

6 Inch vs 4 Inch Decking... An Aesthetic Decision



6" WIDE DECK BOARDS



4" WIDE DECK BOARDS

It is primarily an aesthetic decision whether to use 6" wide (net 5.5") or 4" wide boards for a deck design.

6" is the standard deck width used throughout most markets and certainly the standard width for all composite decks. That being said, 4" decking is very popular in the North East U.S. and particularly on Long Island, NY.

The Atlantic City and Disney boardwalks utilize 4" wide boards, while most other boardwalks typically utilize 6".

The main benefit of a 6" width is that it requires fewer fasteners, which lowers both the cost of the fasteners and the cost of labor to install.

4" decking has a similar appearance to flooring. In fact, porch floors are usually 4" wide.

TROPICAL

On wood decks, 4" also offers some additional dimensional stability. With all wood, an increase in thickness combined with a decrease in width always offers more dimensional stability.

Ultimately, it is primarily an aesthetic consideration, and only natural wood decking offers both options.