

Deckmaster Technical Bulletin
Massaranduba Spacing Requirements
June 8, 2010

We have recently been alerted to the fact that Massaranduba (Brazilian Redwood) decking has in some cases been found to break the screws holding the deck boards in place. This breakage has occurred not only with Deckmaster but with surface screws as well.

The problem appears to be that the distributor of Massaranduba originally recommended spacing the deck boards 1/16" apart. It turns out that such a small spacing is insufficient to allow the boards to expand when they get wet. This causes the deck boards to push up with tremendous force which breaks the fasteners.

The new recommendation from the lumber distributor is that 4" deck boards have 1/8" space and 6" deck boards have 1/4" space. If the deck has 4" alternating with 6" deck boards the spacing should be 1/4".

As a further precaution we recommend that when installing this decking with Deckmaster, the builder should pre-drill all holes going into the decking. This will prevent excessive stress on the screws during installation.

Please note that other hardwood species are not included in this advisory.

If you have any questions about this application, please call.

Sincerely
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