



CHAIN CLIP & SCREW COLLATION USER GUIDE

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Introduction

Thank you for choosing CHAIN Collated decking clip. This guide aims to provide the essential information needed to successfully install the CHAIN Collated decking clip products. It is assumed that the user of this document has a basic understanding of deck building practices and pertinent building codes.

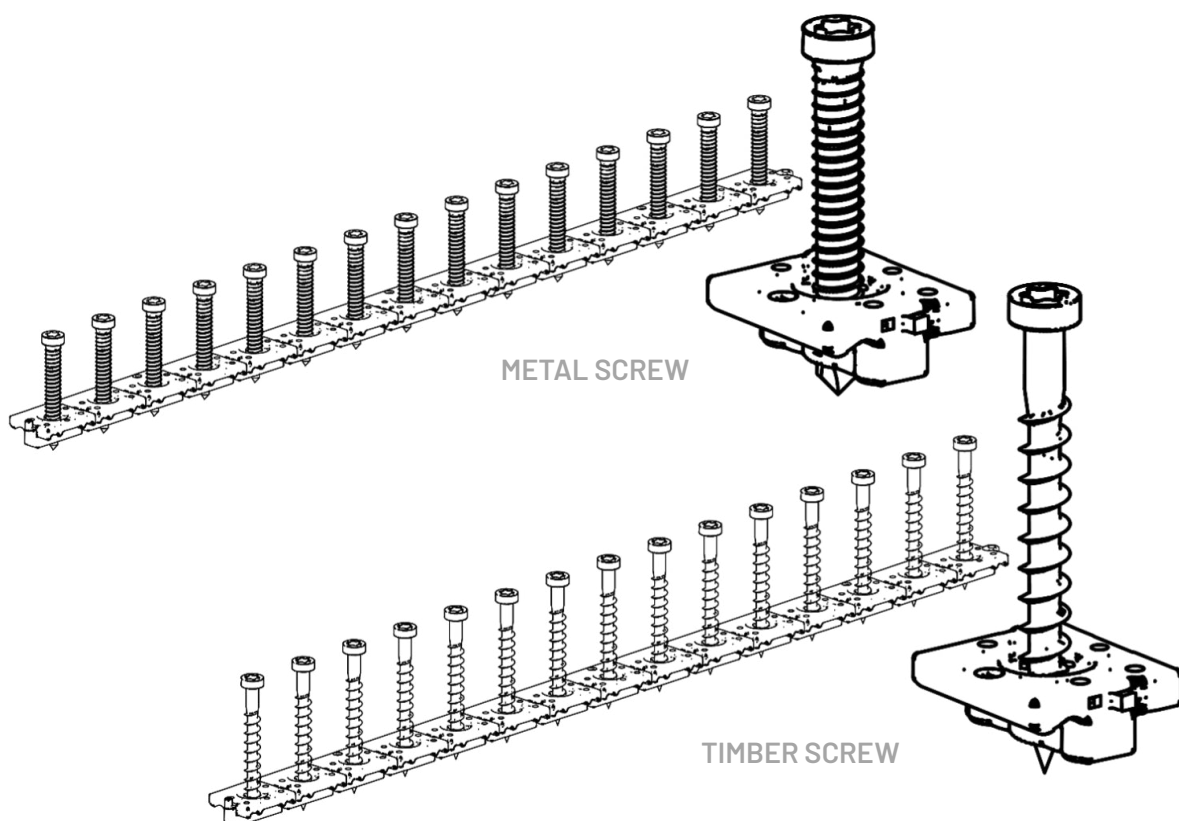
All work must comply with the applicable standards and codes for the region and the user should ensure compliance with material manufacturer specifications. Where manufacturer and building codes differ, revert to the building code requirements. An appropriately qualified professional must be consulted whenever necessary to ensure the product, this document and the intended application comply with all applicable legislation for the region.

Product lifespan

The durability of a system is dependent on the application and environment in which it is installed. The installation should attempt to match the weatherability of all components of the deck system (substructure, fasteners, and boards). A component that is considerably less durable than the system will dictate the overall performance of the system. Consult a suitably qualified professional when necessary to ensure adequate lifespans will be achieved for the intended application. Refer to the appropriate warranty document(s) where necessary.

Maintenance requirements

Continuous maintenance will ensure that the system achieves anticipated lifespans. Inspections should be conducted during installation to ensure protective coatings are not removed from the fasteners or clips. Where this has occurred, it is advisable to touch up these areas with a suitable coating. Regular inspections should also be carried out throughout the lifespan of the deck. Exposed metal surfaces or incidents of corrosion should be rectified before detrimental impact on the system occurs.



General

Safety

Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for additional information.

Always wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the various activities involved in installing a decking system. This includes, but is not limited to, equipment such as: safety glasses, helmets (where necessary), gloves, boots and dust masks when cutting or processing, and harness systems when working at heights or as dictated by the local occupational health and safety legislation.

Be mindful of the following:

- Cutting deck boards produces fine particulate matter which is harmful if inhaled.
- Work in well-ventilated areas.
- Wear dust masks during cutting, drilling, and cleaning.
- Clean up particulate matter by vacuuming or wetting down the area and sweeping regularly. Alternatively, capture particulate matter using a drop sheet where possible.
- Always wear safety goggles while cutting and during installation.
- Cut boards may have sharp edges (particularly mitred cuts).
- Wear safety gloves and glasses when working with the collation strip.

Storage and handling

- Wear safety gloves when handling individual unpackaged strips.
- Keep collated strips relatively straight during installation.
- Support the first clip during installation and avoid unnecessary load distribution to subsequent clips or collation tabs.
- Improper handling may result in collations separating before use.
- All components should be stored under cover.
- When storing boxes, a pallet or flat surface should be used to support the box.
- All components should be securely stored.
- No component should sit in water, other liquids, or contaminants.
- Avoid eccentric stacking or over-stacking.

Standards

- Before installation, ensure that the application is appropriate and complies with local regulations and building codes. Wherever necessary, consult a suitably qualified professional. Be sure to comply with material manufacturer specifications. Where manufacturers and building codes differ, revert to the building code requirements. Check that your choice of product is suitable for its intended application.

Clip strip overview

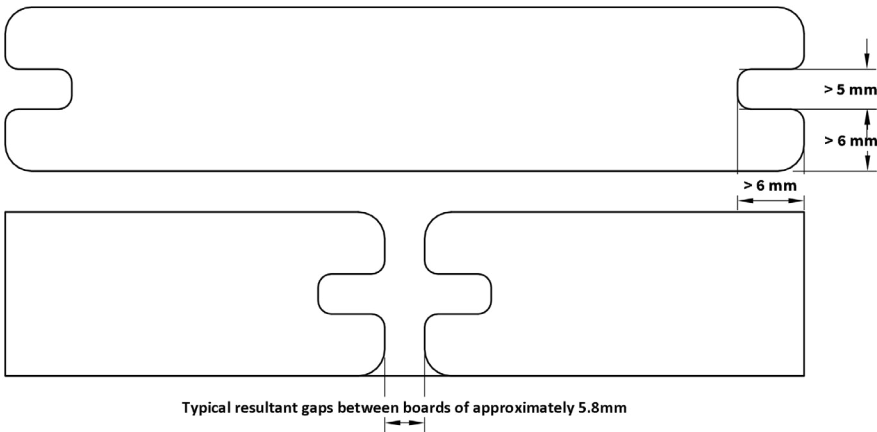
A single CHAIN Collated decking clip strip consists of a magazine of 15 clips with pre-loaded screws. Screws are available for both timber, and similar, as well as metal substructure substrates. Each clip consists of a stainless-steel skeleton wrapped in a polymer coating, this polymer also forms the base and collation for the clips.

Description	Number of clips and screws	Screw type	Application
Timber application	A strip of 15 clips with 15 screws.	 Timber clip screw. M4.2 x 40 mm (#8 x 1.57"). Stainless Steel 316, epoxy coated.	Designed for timber and composite substructure.
Metal application	A strip of 15 clips with 15 screws.	 Metal clip screw. M4.2 x 31 mm (#8 x 1.22"). Carbon C1022, zinc epoxy coated.	Designed for steel and aluminium substructure.

Application

Used as a hidden fastener between timber and composite grooved boards:

- Compatible with deck board grooves as detailed below.



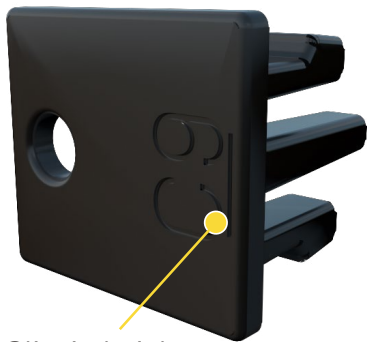
- Compatible with timber or composite joists of a minimum profile height of 38 and width of 38 mm.
- Compatible with metal joists of a minimum profile height of 32 and width of 25 mm.
- Use an electric drill with adjustable torque settings. Do not set the torque to greater than 30% of the maximum allowable. Do not use an impact driver.
- Use the collared Torx 15 bit provided in every hand-tool box and sold separately.

Installation process

Setting hand tool depth to board height

- Set the height of the hand tool relative to the board groove by the corresponding depth adjustment plates to the board groove, to the base of the hand tool. The following table provides a quick guide to which clip-in height adjuster is compatible with which board. Please see **Appendix C** for a more detailed list.
Note: C6 is already built into the tool and is not a separate plate. The hand tool is set up straight out of the box for the installation of Pioneer Decking.
- Insert the tool into the groove of the board to ensure that the plates are set to the appropriate height.

PROFILE COMPATIBILITY



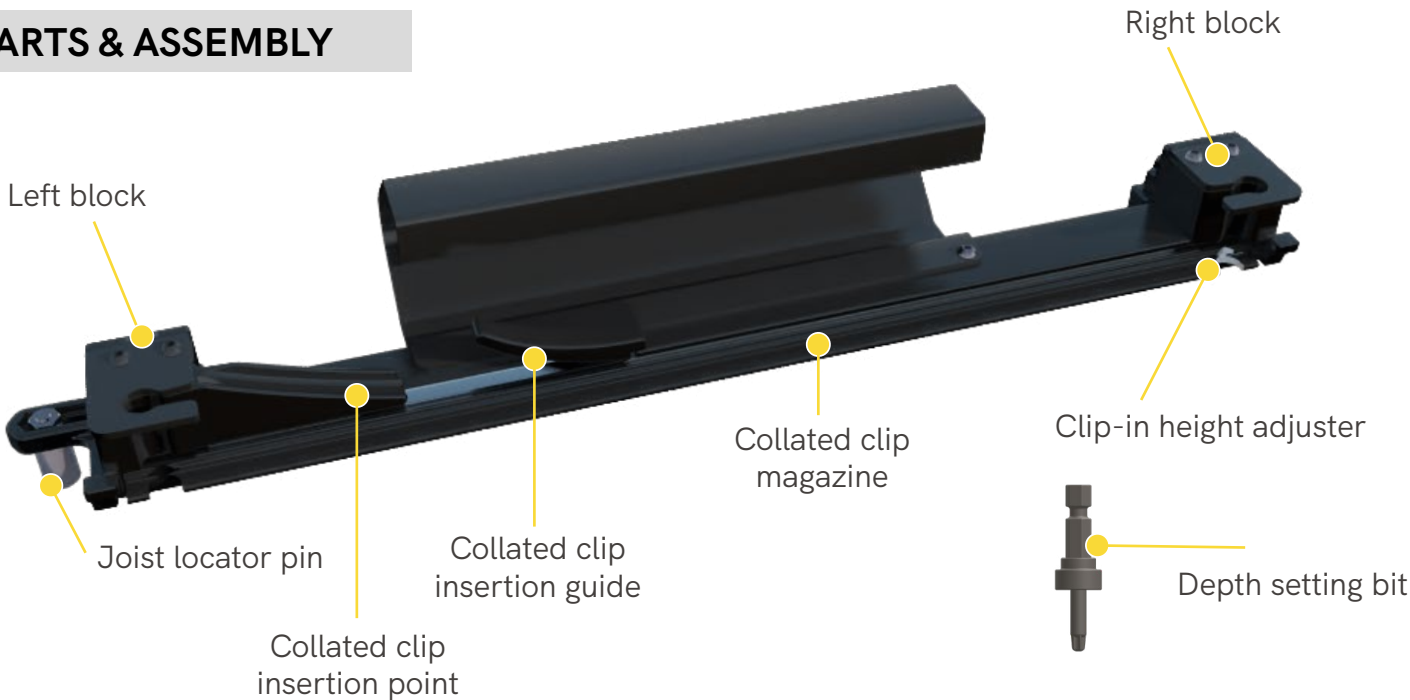
Clip-in height adjuster description

Profile range	Metric Thickness (mm)	C6	C7	C9
Piranha Terrafuzion Decking	23.4	●		
Piranha Hunter Decking	25.4	●		
Pioneer	All	●		

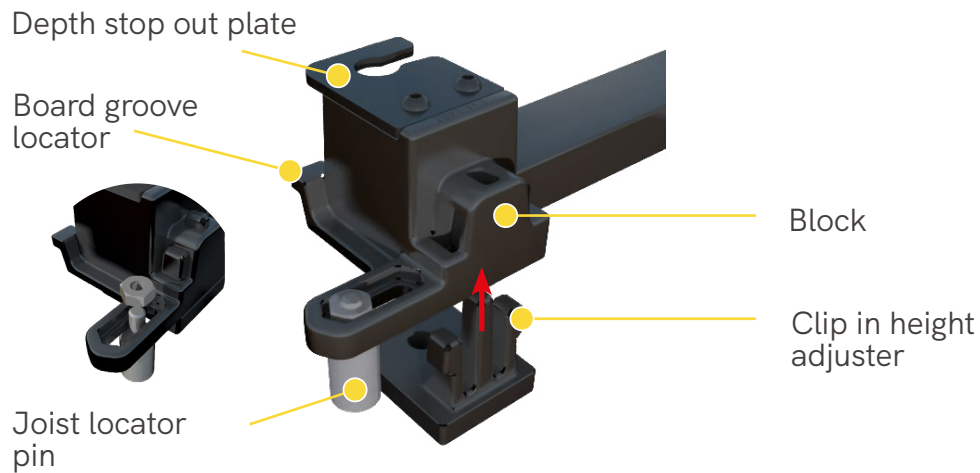
Verify that the correct clip-in height adjuster is used before starting installation, as using an incorrect one may impact the ease of installation.

***Note:** The C6 designation is the depth provided by the tool itself and is not a separate plate.

PARTS & ASSEMBLY



CLIP-IN HEIGHT ADJUSTER ASSEMBLY



Note: Should the height be incorrectly set, the clip may not adequately grip the board, or the insertion of the following board may be negatively impacted.

If the selected joist spacing interferes with the tool's function, you can use a single joist location pin.

Inserting clips into a hand tool

- To load a magazine, slide the collation strip into the hand tool via the guide, and then slide the strip to the end of the tool.
- For left-handed use, slide the collated strip toward the left block.
- Always ensure that the clip is properly seated within the block.

LOADING THE COLLATED CLIP

1

Load the magazine with the collated clip.
Ensure that the rounded part of the clip goes into the guide slot.

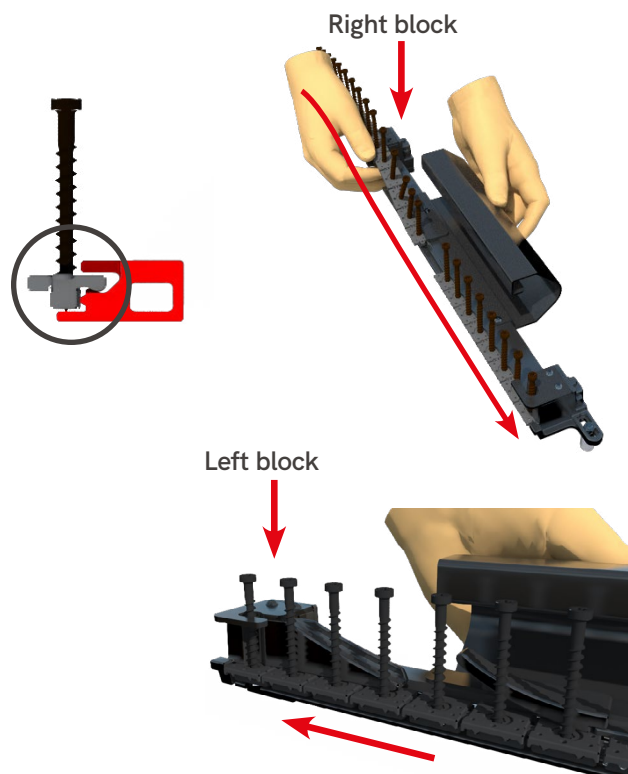
2

Push the collated clip into the right block.
Slide the clip collation all the way to the end of the right hand block.

NB: Tilting the hand tool vertically will make the loading of the collated clip easier.

2a

For left-hand use, slide the collation into the left block.



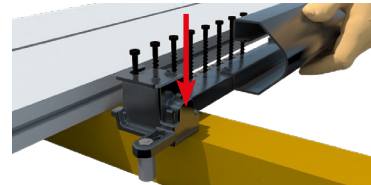
Installation of a clip

- Place the hand tool over the joist so that the base rests on the top surface of the joist. Slide the tool back towards the joist until the pivot screw rests firmly against the outer joist face. Finally, push the tool towards the board so that the tool guide slides into the board groove.

LOCATING THE BOARD GROOVE

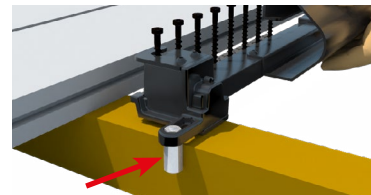
3

Place the hand tool down on the joist.



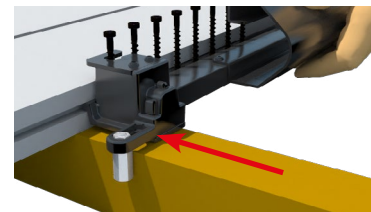
4

Pull the tool towards you so that the locating pin presses against the joist.

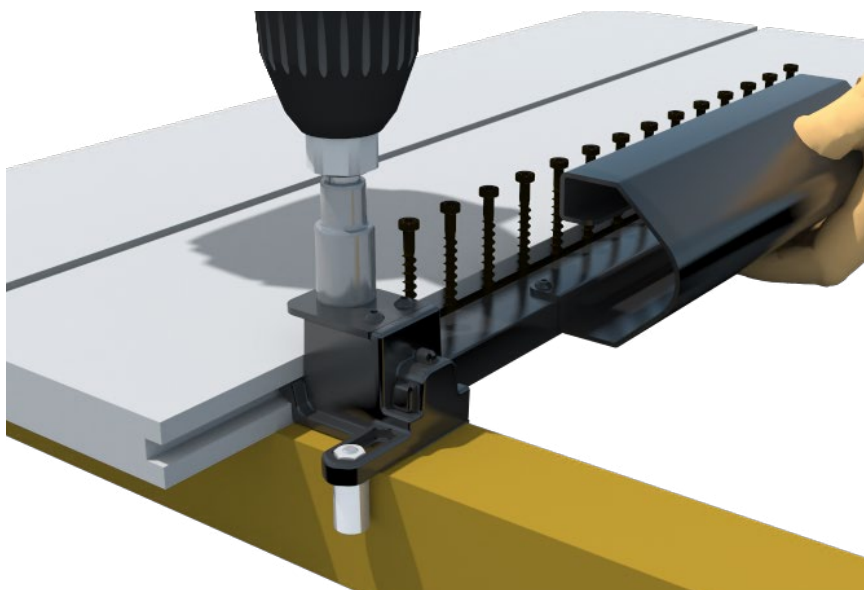


5

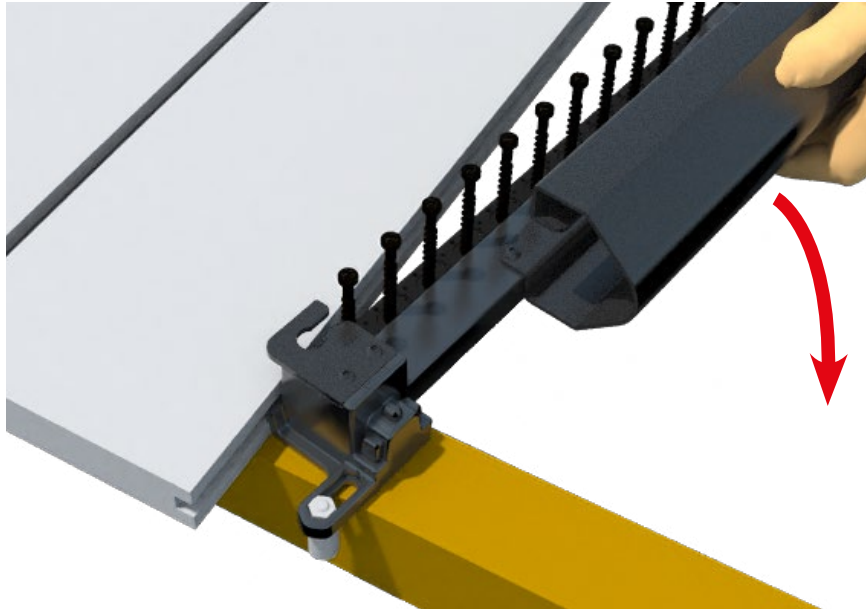
Slide the tool towards the board, until it automatically inserts into the board's groove.



- Fasten the clip into place by installing the screw until it is fully seated on the clip. Ensure the head of the screw clears the tool and the board. Use appropriate torque and depth control.

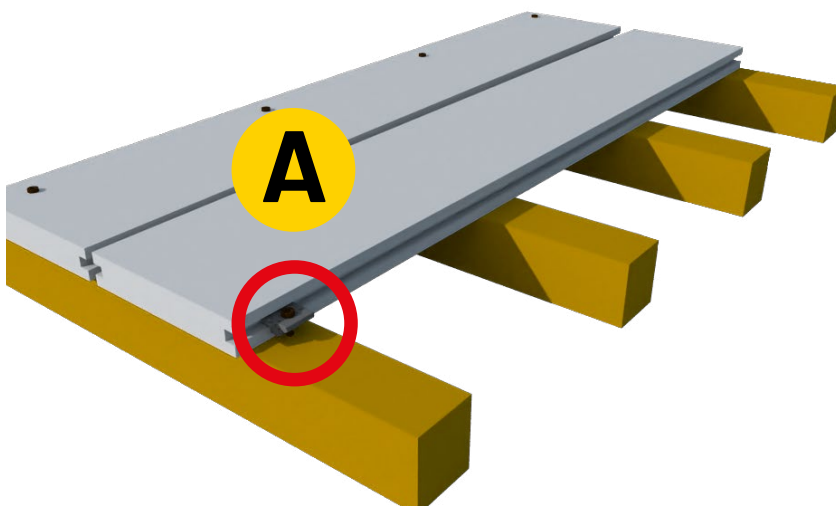
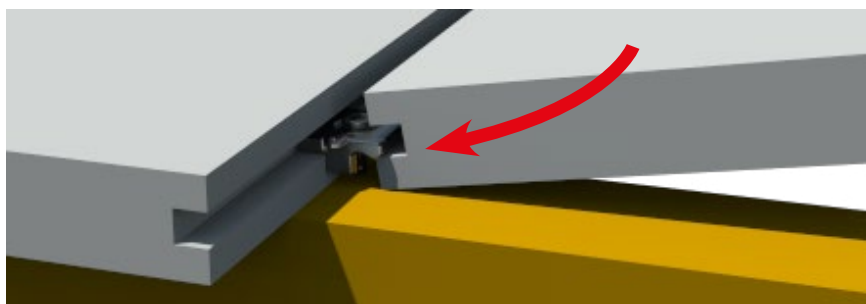


- Rotate the tool away from the board using the screw located against the joist as the pivot point. The action will tear the installed clip from the remaining collation. Slide the collation down the tool so the next clip is ready to install, and repeat.

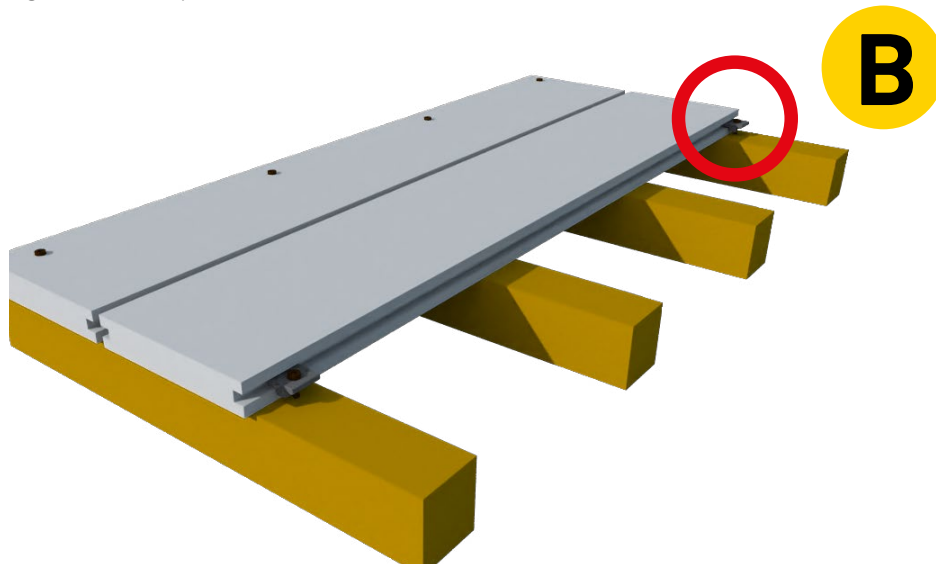


Inserting the next board

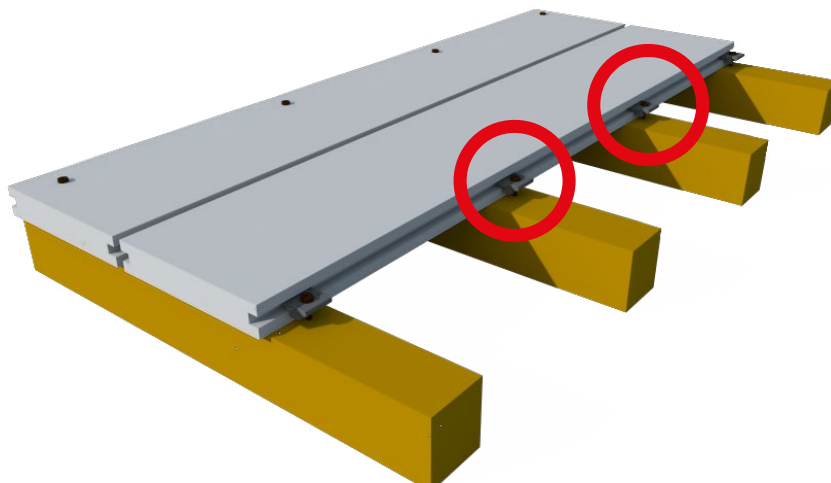
- Once a full row of clips has been fixed, the next board can be installed.
- Place the board onto the joist and leverage it under the spring of the first row of clips, this may require the use of a mallet or similar. Ensure the board is correctly positioned and immediately fix a new clip in place.



- Move to the opposite end of the board, ensuring suitable engagement of the board with the previous row of clips, and fasten a clip in the final position, locking the board into place.



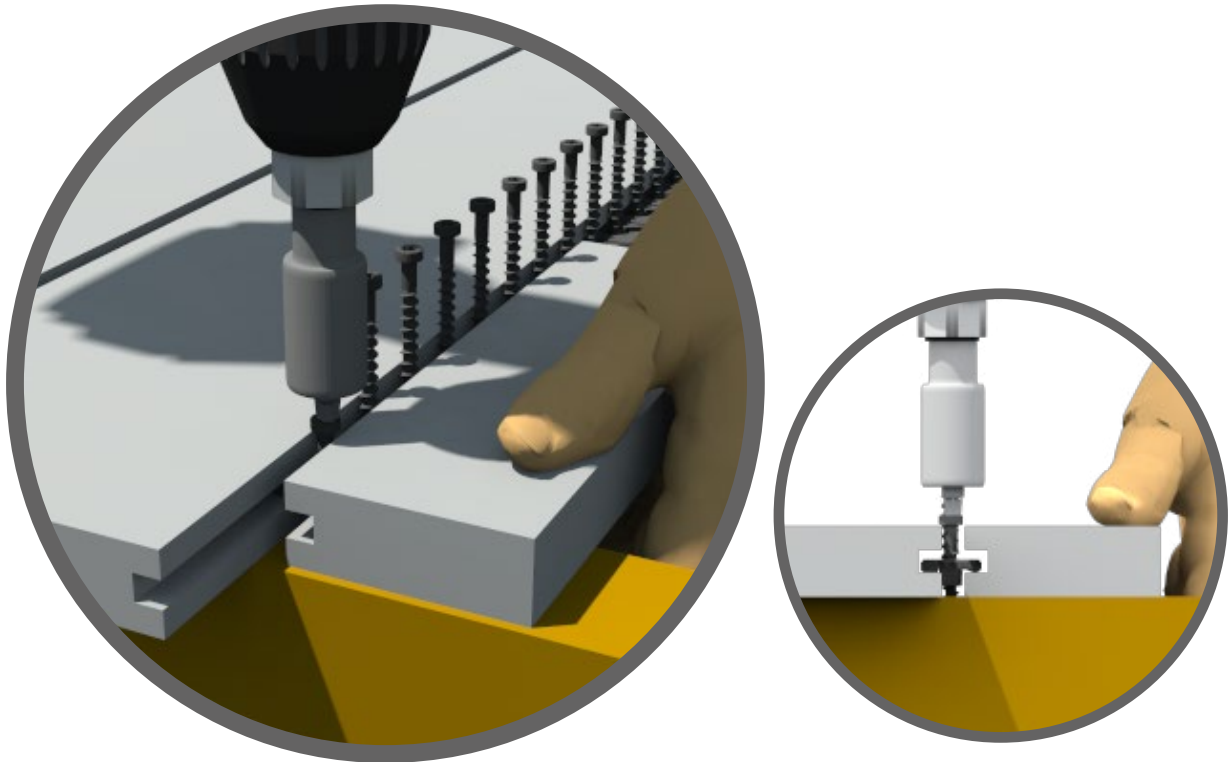
- Fasten the remainder of clips between the first and last clip ensuring the board is correctly positioned relative to the previous row clips.



Note: It is essential not to over-tighten any fixing before the next board has been clipped in and secured. Previously installed clips can be tightened, but it is important to do this after the next row of clips has been installed to prevent the recently clipped in board from being pushed out of place.

Using CHAIN Collated decking clip without a hand tool

- Ensure that the clip rests firmly in the grooves of both the board to be installed and an offcut of the same board type.
- Support the clip spring as the clip is fastened into place and do not over-tighten.
 - a. If using the depth setting bit. Avoid driving the bit against a board surface as this may damage the surface of the board.
- Remove the offcut and tear the remaining collation strip away from the newly fastened clip.



Disclaimers

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info@talasey.co.uk

0330 333 8030

www.talasey.co.uk

Appendix A: Coverage

Coverage

Coverage is defined as the average number of clips required to install a square metre of decking based on the width of the board and the joist span used. The total number of clips required for a project is calculated by multiplying the applicable coverage rate with the total expected area of the deck. A wastage factor is typically allowed for and depends on the complexity of the project. A common industry assumption for a standard install is a wastage of approximately 10%.

Clips per square meter m ²							
Board width - mm	Deck span - mm						
	300	350	400	450	500	550	600
135	26	23	20	18	16	15	14
140	25	22	19	17	16	14	13
145	24	21	19	17	15	14	13
150	24	21	18	16	15	14	13
180	20	17	15	14	13	12	11

Note: Board width includes an average gap of 6 mm between subsequent boards.
Wastage is not considered in the above table.

Fastening frequency

While some boards can span more than 500 mm, it is crucial to use enough fasteners to meet load requirements. Should this not meet the withdrawal requirements, consider reducing the span or switching the top-fixing screws instead of hidden fasteners. The relevant appendix is in the profile TDS.

The following table provides withdrawal results for reference:

Screw	Material	Withdrawal Resistance (kN)	Minimum number of clips per m ² to match US Approach	Structure and notes
Metal clip screw and Chain collated deck clip	C1022	3.8	6	2.0 mm (14 ga) Gauge steel
Timber clip screw and Chain collated deck clip	SS316	3.8	6	Pine with Specific gravity of 0.46
Chain collated deck clip	SS304	3.4 to 5.0	6	Normal performance at 6.0 mm groove. Worst case at 8.9mm groove.

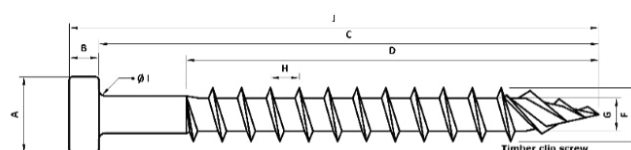
Appendix B: Fastener specification

Fastener specification

Timber

CHAIN Collated deck clip timber screws are used for both timber and composite substructure substrates. Available in 316 stainless steels with an epoxy coating.

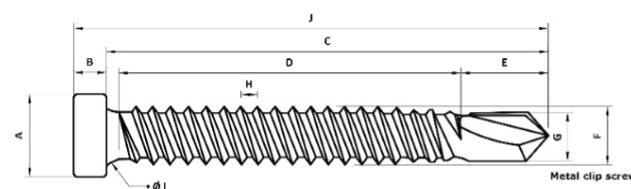
Item	Description	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (in)
A	Head diameter	6.0	0.24
B	Head height	2.3	0.1
C	Useable screw length	38 to 40	1.5 to 1.57
D	Thread length	30 to 33	1.2 to 1.3
E	Tip length	N/A	N/A
F	Major diameter of screw	4.2	0.17
G	Minor diameter of screw	2.5	0.1
H	Pitch	2.3	0.1
I	Radius under head	1.0	0.04
J	Total screw length	40 to 42	1.58 to 1.66
	Wire gauge	2.95	0.12



Metal

CHAIN Collated deck clip metal screws are used for metal substructure of thicknesses from 1.2 to 2.0 mm. Available in Carbon C1022 with a zinc-epoxy coating.

Item	Description	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (in)
A	Head diameter	6.0	0.24
B	Head height	2.3	0.1
C	Useable screw length	30 to 32	1.2 to 1.26
D	Thread length	30 to 32	1.2 to 1.3
E	Tip length	4.0	0.16
F	Major diameter of screw	4.2	0.17
G	Minor diameter of screw	3.4	0.14
H	Pitch	1.4	0.06
I	Radius under head	3	0.12
J	Total screw length	32 to 35	1.26 to 1.4
	Wire gauge	3.45	0.135



Appendix D: FAQ

What is the CHAIN collated decking clip system?

The CHAIN collated decking clip system is a hidden deck fastener designed for efficient and durable installation. It includes a strip of 15 polypropylene-coated stainless-steel clips pre-loaded with screws, suitable for either metal or timber structure applications.

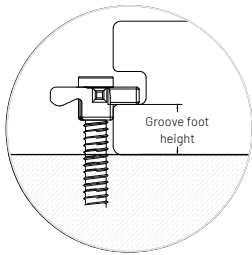
What materials are the clips and screws made of?

Clips: Stainless steel 304 with a black polypropylene coating.

Screws: Stainless steel 316 with epoxy coating (timber) and Carbon C1022 with zinc epoxy coating (metal).

Do the CHAIN collated decking clips systems come with screws?

Yes, each strip of clips comes pre-loaded with screws, streamlining the installation process.



What makes the CHAIN collated decking clips so durable and strong?

The combination of a stainless-steel skeleton and a polymer coating ensures structural integrity and protection against corrosion.

What tools are required for installation?

The CHAIN collated decking hand tool, depth setting Torx 15-bit, hand drill with adjustable torque settings, and potentially a mallet.

Can CHAIN be installed without a hand tool?

While it is not recommended, a board offcut (the same as the deck been installed) can be used to support both sides of the clip during installation.

What quantities of the collated clips sold in?

Clips are available in boxes of 150, with 10 strips per box. Bulk boxes are also available, containing 900 clips (6 boxes per bulk box).

How many CHAIN clips do I need for my deck project?

The number of clips required depends on the width of your deck board plus gap and the spacing of your joists. Typically, at spans of 300 to 400 mm.

Between 17 and 25 clips per m². When calculating the number of screws, be sure to include a waste factor. Since the clips are preloaded and collated, waste due to dropping or spilling screws is expected to be reduced.

How is it possible that the CHAIN collated decking clips work with such a wide range of board heights?

The versatility of the CHAIN collated decking clips are due to the availability of height adjustment clip in height adjusters. These clip in height adjusters (C6, C7, and C9) are designed to accommodate different groove heights, ensuring a perfect fit and secure fastening for various board types. By matching the clips to the specific groove height of your decking boards, you can achieve a secure and precise fit. Be sure to check the groove height of your profile before starting your project.

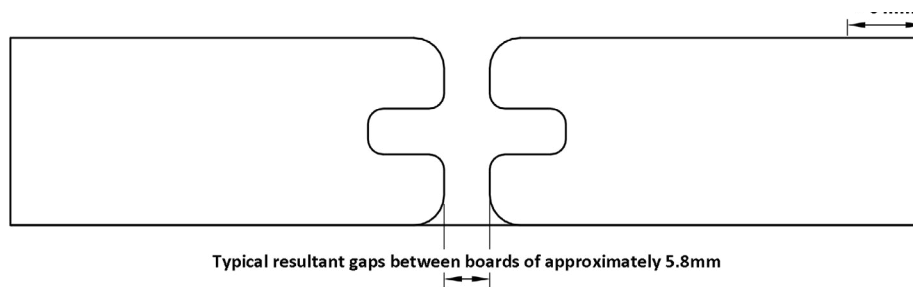
Troubleshooting

How do I ensure the collated clip does not buckle or snag during insertion into the hand tool? (See Section 5.2 of the IG).

- Push the clip into the tool, from the 5th clip along, handling the clips but not the screws.
- Tilting the hand tool vertically will make the loading of the collated clip into the hand tool easier.

How do I get accurate deck gap during installation? (See Section 4.0 of the IG).

The CHAIN system creates its own deck gap of approximately 5.8 to 6mm. Ensure that the clip is properly inserted and fastened during installation.



What should I do if the boards are loose after installing the clips?

This tends to happen when the screws are under tightened.

- Check that the clip in height adjuster been used is appropriate for the groove foot height.
- Use the supplied depth controlling bit.
- If the problem persists, check if there is any debris obstructing the clip or screw and clean it before retrying.
- Always make sure to tighten the clip until the bit stops out against the tool clip in height adjuster and the bit disengages from the screw.
- If all else fails, once all the boards are fitted, return and tighten the screws.

What should I do if the clips will not allow the next board to be installed?

This tends to happen when the screws are overtightened.

- Check that the clip in height adjuster been used is appropriate for the groove foot height.
- Use the supplied depth controlling bit.
- Check the speed and torque settings on the drill. Avoid applying your full body weight when drilling, as this can wear out the tool faster. Although the tool is designed to handle the load of the bit stopping, overdriving may still be a factor.
- If all else fails, Slowly adjust the clips by reversing the screw out, this may require retightening, and may damage the structure. Avoid this if possible.

How do I stop the hand tool from slipping off the joist during operation?

- Use the joist pin to stop the hand tool from slipping off the joist.
- Ensure the joist pin depth is set toward the centre of the joist, rather than the edge.
- For steel joists with a rounded edge, ensure the joist pin is positioned past the radius to maintain a secure and stable hold.

Post-Installation and Maintenance

How long will the CHAIN decking clip last?

The CHAIN decking clip is designed to match the lifespan of the overall system. However, the durability of the system depends on the application and the environment in which it is installed. The installation should aim to match the weather resistance of the most durable component of the deck system, including the substructure, fasteners, and boards. If any component is significantly less durable than the rest, it will determine the overall performance of the system. Consult a suitably qualified professional when necessary to ensure the components achieve the desired lifespans for the intended application. Refer to the appropriate warranty documents as needed.

Will the CHAIN fasteners turn white over time?

No, the polymer coating on the clips has additional UV additives, ensuring long-lasting performance and colour fastness.

How should I maintain the decking system to ensure longevity?

Conduct regular inspections during and after installation to ensure protective coatings remain intact. Touch up any exposed metal surfaces to prevent corrosion and perform periodic maintenance checks. Replace screws as it becomes obvious that they may

When inspecting the system, if I notice a screw is rusting, Can I replace the screw and use the same clip.

It is assumed that the clip will be more corrosion resistant than a carbon screw. The screw head is narrow enough to allow for access to reverse the screw out. So, replacement is possible. Do not reuse the same hole. Do not overtighten the screw.

Can boards be removed if needed once a CHAIN fastener is installed?

Yes, boards can be removed if necessary. Carefully unscrew the fasteners and slide the board out from the side. If this is not possible it may be possible to lever the board out. It will be necessary to protect the adjacent boards edge with something soft while levering. Replace the clip and screw by sliding the board in and slotting single clips in place on either side as it moves down. Then refasten. Do not reuse the previous hole.

How should I store and handle the collated clips?

- See section 2.2 of the Install guide for storage and handling.
- Excessive handling of screws may result in them falling out before installation but should not fall out during normal installation.

How can I improve the efficiency of my installation process?

- Use the hand tool
- Use the correct clip in height adjusters
- Use the correct bit
- Do not overdrive or underdrive the screws. Stop out naturally.
- Use multiple tools on site.