

The Mataverde Success Plan for Your Exterior Hardwood Project

We firmly believe in the old adage “Proper prior planning prevents poor performance.” To get the best performance for your project, we believe that an informed client will help ensure a successful project. Here are a few suggestions for you to get the most out of your exterior hardwood materials for a successful project with the least amount of challenges or interruptions:

PLANNING WHAT TO ORDER FOR YOUR PROJECT

Material Quantities

We have found that ordering a little bit of “extra” material for your project is actually *less costly* in the long run and will also provide options for you during installation. Most experienced builders and contractors will typically add a minimum of 3-5% extra material to compensate for cutting, defecting and waste. To a contractor, this will not only create a better looking project, but will help avoid any delays in getting the job completed, and also eliminates any potential extra delivery or millwork charges. To an owner, this “attic stock” means ready access to replacement materials if ever needed, at the original price and looks. In short, adding a little bit of extra material to your order will be the best and lowest cost insurance you can buy.

Material Quality

Mataverde Premium Hardwood materials are selected to [specific quality criteria](#). As wood is a natural product, expect variations in color, graining, figuring and appearance. High density hardwoods in particular exhibit lots of exotic graining and tropical color variations. This is an inherent characteristic of natural wood species and is part of the unique character and individuality of each board. These variations help add a distinctive beauty to your project for years to come.

If a particular piece of wood has an appearance that you do not find desirable or to your preference, it is best to lay out your decking or siding boards to blend them in and use them in a way that is most advantageous to your project use and design. Another common technique is to trim or “defect cut” any pieces of boards that have a quality concern or appearance issue of any type. This allows you to make best use of your materials in a way that will yield long term beauty and success.

Material Sizes

[Mataverde premium hardwood decking, siding and Lumber are available in many widths, thicknesses](#) and lengths for your project needs. Mataverde Decking and Siding Specialists are trained to help you determine which species, thickness and widths will work best for your project needs. Our specialists can also offer suggestions on lengths, based on your project type, material layout, project budget and shipping requirements.

Mataverde decking and lumber is typically available in lengths anywhere from 6’ to 20’. Mataverde rain screen siding is typically available in random lengths from 4’ to 12’, which are very effective in installing rain screen siding projects. When planning your length needs, we have found it most cost effective for you to use a random length tally with a variety of lengths to help you meet your project goals. To make best use of exterior hardwood decking and siding materials, laying your boards in a random length pattern (like a hardwood floor) is the most effective, and beautiful, way to “blend” various board appearances and make best use of your materials.

Sustainable Material Options

Mataverde Premium Hardwood Decking and Siding is sustainably harvested to ensure that there as many mature trees available at the end of a harvesting cycle as there were at the beginning. Typically, a maximum of only one to two trees per acre of forest can be harvested. In addition to FSC® Certified material (Forest Stewardship Council®), Mataverde decking and siding is also available in the IBAMA/SEMA sustainable yield forestry methodology. Learn more about [Mataverde sustainability options here](#).

PLANNING AND RECEIVING YOUR SHIPMENT

Shipment by General Woodcraft Truck:

If your order is going to be shipped via a General Woodcraft truck, we will confirm your shipment the day prior to your delivery, so you can be ready to receive your shipment. If you have help and/or a forklift on site, we would like to know so we can work best with your schedule.

Shipment by Common Carrier to Business:

If your order is being shipped by Common Carrier to a business, you will be notified of the name of the shipping company and the Carrier Pro# with a link to their website. Depending on the carrier, you will typically be able to access the status of your delivery as it is updated on their website. You will be notified by the carrier the day before your delivery to be prepared to receive your order.

The delivery is to the tailgate of the truck. If you are unloading with a forklift, you will probably need chains to drag the crate out of the truck onto your loading dock. To avoid incurring any unplanned extra delivery costs, please be prepared to have the truck unloaded within twenty minutes of arrival at your business.

Shipment by Common Carrier to Residential Address:

If your order is being shipped by Common Carrier to a residence, you will be notified of the name of the shipping company and the Carrier Pro# with a link to their website. Depending on the Carrier, you will typically be able to access the status of your delivery as it is updated on their website. You will be notified by the carrier the day before your delivery to be prepared to receive your order.

As our shipments are usually wrapped and/or crated, you will want to have a sharp knife or cutters to cut the plastic bands and the wrapping. If the material is crated, you will also want a hammer to remove the end of the crate. Please wear gloves to prevent getting any splinters while unloading the material. To avoid incurring any unplanned extra delivery costs, please have enough able-bodied helpers to unload your delivered materials within twenty minutes of arrival at your residence.

If you note any damaged material on your order, *it is imperative to note this on the Carrier's Bill of Lading (BOL). Take pictures of the damaged material while it is still on the truck.* Since a BOL is a legally binding document, failure to note any damages on the BOL will likely result in an unpleasant experience and headaches that nobody wants or needs.

AFTER YOUR MATERIAL ARRIVES

Proper Wood Acclimation

Wood expands or contracts naturally, based on its moisture content. Most of this movement occurs as it is drying out or “acclimating” on site. Once wood has fully acclimated it is said to have reached “Equilibrium Moisture Content” or EMC for short. After the wood has reached its EMC on site, movement of the wood is minimized and only changes seasonally depending on humidity and temperature. While high density exterior hardwoods typically move less than most other domestic and softwood species, they are still wood, and all wood species will move somewhat.

[For best long-term results, it is important to allow your wood to acclimate thoroughly before installing it on your project.](#) Wood typically expands and contracts primarily across its width, so any dimensional changes are likely to be seen there. Don't be alarmed if you see some changes in width; simply use these boards to their best advantage. If you are laying out decking or siding and notice that some boards have acclimated slightly narrower than others, simply use the narrower boards on the same row of decking or course of siding. The best place to allow wood to acclimate is in a shaded area covered on the top of the unit only. The greater the amount of air that moves over the surface of the wood, the faster the wood will acclimate. That's why many experienced builders will use spacers between each stack of wood to help the acclimation process.

Installing Your Decking or Siding Material

Our goal is to help guide you along the way to a beautiful exterior hardwood project that will provide you with satisfaction for years to come. With lots of input from our clients, we have developed some helpful guidelines for the best installation techniques for our decking and siding products.

[Please find Decking Installation Guidelines here](#)

[Please find Rain Screen Installation guidelines here](#)

If you have any questions, before, during or after your installation, we are here to help you in any way we can. We take pride in providing helpful information to our clients.

Protecting Your Material After Installation

Whether you choose to apply a protective coating to your new exterior hardwood before or after installation, either way, it is a great idea. Applying a UV inhibiting sealer such as Penofin or another product will help minimize surface checking and protect your wood during the acclimation period. Even our clients who ultimately want their exterior hardwood to weather to a silvery patina over time will benefit from an initial application of a UV inhibiting sealer. [More information about care and maintenance options here.](#)

Additional Terms and Conditions

Please visit our website for [additional terms and conditions](#).

We wish you the very best of success with your exterior hardwood project. We hope you have found this guideline helpful. We look forward to helping you achieve the exterior project of your dreams.

For US and Canadian Shipments East of the Rockies:

Our East Coast Offices may be reached at (860)-444-7524 Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm Eastern Time

For Shipments to Rocky Mountains and Western States and Canadian Provinces:

Our West Coast Offices may be reached at (707)-794-0510 Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm Pacific Time