**We recommend using above-ground kiln-dried treated decking boards.  These boards will be more structurally stable and have less checking and cracking over time.  Whether you are replacing a few boards, re-topping your existing structure or building a brand new deck, there are steps you should take to improve the life of your deck.**

1. **Seal Cut Ends** – When ever you cut your treated decking boards or treated lumber, be sure to coat the cut ends with a below ground wood preservative, ideally a 2% Copper Naphthenate treatment.  In today's treated lumber market, boards aren't treated all the way through the board.  Exposing the inside of the board can sometimes cause rot from the inside out.  At our store, we sell WOODLIFE**®** CopperCoat**™** and Q8 Wood Preservative.  Just apply to the end of any cut area with a paint or sponge brush.  Both preservatives are sold in gallons and quarts.
2. **Install Deck Flashing** - Adding deck board flashing between the joists and deck boards can add years to the life of your deck.  During rainy seasons, moisture can build up between the deck boards and the joists, causing a below ground environment.  This excess moisture can lead to rot on joists and the bottom of the decking board.  By adding a moisture barrier flashing, excess moisture is eliminated, allowing the boards to dry out quicker.  We carry Deck Flash Barrier in a self-adhesive 3"x 75' or 3"x 25' roll in stock.
3. **Add 1/8" Space Between Boards** - When using KDAT decking boards, it is always important to add a small space between the boards.  The re-dried boards have already gone through a shrinking process in the kiln and need room to expand during a wet season.  By providing a small 1/8" space or the space of a framing or 16 penny nail between boards, you will provide the space the board needs.
4. **Give Deck Ventilation** - Decks need plenty of ventilation.  It is recommended to have the joists at least 18" off the ground and not close in decks underneath.  Adding a nice open lattice under a deck skirt can provide beauty, privacy and ventilation.
5. **Use Heavy Duty Corrosion Resistant Screws** - Always use a deck fastener designed for an exterior environment.  It is recommended to use a heavy duty corrosion resistant or stainless steel screws on decking boards and joists.  It is also recommended to use metal connectors on the joists boards and deck bands through-out the structure to add more support.  We have several deck fastening products ideal for your deck in stock.
6. **Stain and Seal Your Deck** **Now** - It is recommended to put an exterior grade stain and or sealer on the wood immediately with kiln-dried decking and lumber.  Kiln-dried lumber has already done its drying.  It is ready for a sealer NOW, not later.
7. **When to Use Below-Ground Decking** - There are a few situations in which it is recommended to use below-ground treatment or a PVC decking material.  
   Ground contact treated or PVC Decking is needed if:  
   1. Deck will be in an area where vegetation, leaves and debris is likely to build up,  
   2. Decking joists are less than 18" above the ground,  
   3. Deck is in an area that is constantly wet such as on a low-level dock or by an irrigation system  
   4.  There is not adequate air-flow under and around the deck.  
   Ground-treated kiln-dried in a premium select grade can be special ordered.  Please inquire with our staff if you prefer the ground-treated decking.

***Protect Your Investment by Registering Your Culpeper Treated Lumber Project Today!***

This is an amazing warranty considering all costs associated with replacing a deck!  Please inquire about  **Culpeper Premium Warranty** for your decking project.  If you use the steps listed above, you qualify for a 20-year Warranty which covers all treated lumber along with labor and hardware replacement.  Registration is quick and easy with our link below.  Just scan in your invoices, a picture of the completed project and answer a few questions and your done!  Click on the link below to get started.

**Available remedies for failures found during the life of your new deck:**

**Years 1 - 5** - Replacement wood plus reasonable cost of: • Removal and disposal of damaged wood • Labor for repair of damaged portion of the structure • Fasteners and materials needed to replace or repair the damaged portion of the structure

**Years 6 - 10** - Replacement wood plus 75% of the reasonable cost of the following items: • Removal and disposal of damaged wood • Labor for repair of damaged portion of the structure • Fasteners and materials needed to replace or repair the damaged portion of the structure

**Years 11 - 15** - Replacement wood plus 50% of the reasonable cost of the following items: • Removal and disposal of damaged wood • Labor for repair of damaged portion of the structure • Fasteners and materials needed to replace or repair the damaged portion of the structure

**Years 16 - 20 -** Replacement wood Coverage shall only apply to the specific part or component which failed to comply with the warranty and not the entire structure. Costs will be determined “reasonable” based on the 3 bids received in the procedure outlined.

**Culpeper Premium Warranty Form:**[**PROJECT WARRANTY INFO FORM**](https://www.capitolcitylumber.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/PROJECT-WARRANTY-INFO-FORM.pdf)