

Congratulations on your selection of AquaTread<sup>®</sup> marine flooring, the most durable marine sheet flooring available. It is waterproof, easy to maintain and resistant to stains, bait smells, and many common chemicals. AquaTread marine flooring is the finishing component of a decking system that also includes underlayment, sealants, patch compounds and adhesive.

To maximize the AquaTread marine flooring lifecycle, proper subfloor preparation and installation with compatible products in a suitable environmental range is required. The following guidelines are recognized as best practices for installation of AquaTread marine flooring. Always follow safe work practices, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and understand requirements for chemical usage.

Better Life Technology respects the user's right to deviate from these guidelines. Please consult with the manufacturers who supply each separate component of the decking system to ensure compatibility and possible conflicts with installation practices.

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## Reference When Installing On Plywood Decks

### MOISTURE

Wood is a cellulose material which is in a constant state of seeking moisture equilibrium with its surrounding environment. Dimensional changes can occur based on the moisture level of the decking. It expands when the humidity is high, which adds moisture. It shrinks when conditions are dry, which releases moisture.

The average moisture percentages vary based upon the geographic area. This variation affects the stability of the decking and may transfer to the finished flooring. Please consult with the wood decking underlayment supplier for moisture content guidelines and tolerances.

### MATERIAL STORAGE

Products used to construct the decking system are engineered to be utilized in the same temperature and humidity range that humans regard as their comfort zone. It is preferred that components be stored in the same conditions that exist on the build line. If products are stored outside or in unconditioned sheds, they must be protected from extreme conditions, such as; direct sunlight, freezing temperatures, heat and moisture.

Environmental damage to chemicals may not be noticeable when applied; however, the performance aspects could be compromised. Ensure that components are thoroughly acclimated to build line conditions prior to use. Select a flat area for decking storage, but do not place bundles directly on the ground. Use several sticker boards to support and elevate the bundle.

If decking bundles are stored outside in the open and unsheltered must be protected from the elements. Use a waterproof tarp cover and tent out the cover around the bundle allowing good ventilation to avoid moisture build up.

### CROSSMEMBERS

Apply butyl tape or adhesive sealant caulk, such as ChemLink M-1 Marine to each crossmember. Be certain the butyl tape is centered on each deck underlayment seam. When caulk is used, apply a double bead and ensure adequate coverage spans unbroken through both underlayment edges.

### DECKING

Inspect underlayment and cull sheets for damaged edges. Any excess can be utilized as fill sections for aft, fill or bow decking. The underlayment seam edges should include a 1/8" gap, which allows for reasonable expansion of moisture latent plywood. Try not to force seam edges tightly, as the underlayment seams should not touch.

Avoid applying sealants between the plywood seam edges. Sealing exposed plywood along the seams obstructs the woods natural ability to balance internal moisture content. Some tongue and groove underlayments are predesigned with expansion space milled into the interlocking feature.

### ATTACHMENT

Proper screw placement and spacing is a priority to firmly anchor the decking to the crossmembers. Along seams, screws must be spaced in no greater than six inch intervals, offset from each other. Place the screws one half to three quarter's inch from the underlayment edge. Field screw spacing should not exceed twelve inches apart. Center the screws on crossmembers or structural components. Ensure that screws are secured with the heads just below the deck surface.

### UNDERLAYMENT PREPARATION

Lightly sand the decking underlayment joints to ensure they are flat and even, spot sand other areas as required. Care must be taken not to over sand or dish out the underlayment surface. Apply a flexible waterproof patch to spot fill substrate imperfections. Ensure the filler is applied smoothly or sanded flat. Allow adequate time for the filler to gain hardness prior to application of adhesive. This is necessary to avoid cross contamination of filler and adhesive. Please consult with the patch manufacturer for suitability, compatibility and usage instructions. It is not necessary to fill the decking underlayment 1/8" joint spacing.

## INSTALLATION

Unroll the AquaTread marine flooring and position pattern side up. Align the pattern edge with the length of the boat, allowing for excess to trim on all four edges. It may be preferred to center patterned AquaTread marine flooring on the boat by balancing the design along both side edges.

## ADHESIVE FOR PLYWOOD DECKS

G-Floor<sup>®</sup> Marine and Outdoor Adhesive has been approved for AquaTread marine flooring applications on wood decking through rigorous qualification and testing processes. The adhesive can be troweled with a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel or applied with a nap roller. The application rate must be monitored to yield 100 to 125 square feet per gallon.

Stir the adhesive prior to use and every 2 or 3 hours to ensure the contents are blended. Keep the pail lid secured when not in use to protect from drying. After spreading the adhesive, allow a minimum of five minutes open time for the adhesive to gain green strength. More open time is required for cooler temperatures or high humidity. The adhesive should just start to develop a skin.

Place the AquaTread marine flooring flat and smooth on the adhesive, avoid trapping air or forming ridges. Roll the AquaTread marine flooring in length and width with a seventy-five pound weighted roller as soon as the material is set in to the adhesive. Ensure 100% adhesive transfer between the two surfaces. For best results, reroll after one hour.

Flooring must maintain contact with adhesive until curing of the adhesive is complete (20-28 hours). To facilitate proper contact, secure the edges by stapling around the entire perimeter of the boat and floor penetrations and install the edge rail.

There are many suitable adhesives for both plywood and composite decks that will bond AquaTread marine flooring. Follow specific manufacturer recommendations.

For additional details, please contact the adhesive manufacturers listed below:

Chemical Technology Incorporated  
26067 Groesbeck Highway  
Warren, MI 48089  
586.533.2477



## AquaTread Marine Flooring OPTIMAL INSTALLATION TIPS:

1. Excessive moisture content in plywood substrates could cause seam swelling, resulting in buckling or stretching of the finished AquaTread marine flooring.
2. Improper placement of screws (too few screws, screws spaced too far apart, screws driven too deeply into the plywood) can disrupt the integrity and holding power of the underlayment.
3. Applying adhesive too quickly after patching substrate imperfections can cause cross contamination. This leads to adhesive and filler failure and may not properly bond with decking and/or AquaTread marine flooring.
4. Applying an insufficient amount of adhesive can cause future bond failure of the AquaTread marine flooring. Always monitor the adhesive application process to ensure sufficient coverage.
5. Applying AquaTread marine flooring too quickly after spreading adhesive lengthens the curing time and weakens the early tack strength resulting in movement of the AquaTread marine flooring.

## Reference When Installing On A Composite Deck

### MOISTURE

The major advantage to AquaTread installed on a composite deck is that it provides the most moisture resistant barrier available in the market. Composite decks and AquaTread do not absorb water or allow for the free flow of air. Therefore, adhesive selection is very important and cannot be a water or solvent based. These types of adhesives will simple not dry properly or may take days to cure.

### MATERIAL STORAGE

Products used to construct the decking system are engineered to be utilized in the same temperature and humidity range that humans regard as their comfort zone. It is preferred that components be stored in the same conditions that exist on the build line. If products are stored outside or in unconditioned sheds, they must be protected from extreme conditions, such as; direct sunlight, freezing temperatures, heat and moisture. Ensure that components are thoroughly acclimated to build line conditions prior to use.

Damage due to chemical exposure may not be noticeable when applied, however the performance aspects could be compromised. Typical chemicals found around the build line such as adhesives, solvents or oils should be thoroughly cleaned if accidentally spilled on the AquaTread surface.

### CROSSMEMBERS

Cross members must be clean from any chemicals or debris. Additionally, cross members need to be flat across the entire deck to assure complete contact with the composite deck. If the crossmembers are not flat the composite deck may bridge and not properly adhere to the surface.

Apply adhesive sealant caulk, such as ChemLink M-1 Marine to each crossmember. Please a ¼ inch double bead on each cross member.

### DECKING

The composite decking is then laid on the crossmembers. Assure decking is in contact with all the crossmembers. Screw through the deck and into the cross members around the exterior edge to hold deck in place while the adhesive cures. The cure can take up to 24 hours.

Each screw is slightly counter sunk just below the deck surface. Place a small amount of ChemLink M1 Marine on each screw head and use a putty-knife to smooth the surface.

### ADHESIVE FOR COMPOSITE DECKS

Chemlink Fleeceback Adhesive has been approved for AquaTread marine flooring applications on composite decking through rigorous qualification and testing processes. The adhesive can

be troweled with a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel or applied with a nap roller. The application rate must be monitored to yield 75 square feet per gallon. Stir the adhesive prior to use and every 2 or 3 hours to ensure the contents are blended. Keep the pail lid secured when not in use to protect from drying. After spreading the adhesive, allow a minimum of five minutes open time to start the curing process. The adhesive is a water cure (moisture in the air initiates the cure) and will cure faster in higher humidity. Applying an insufficient amount of adhesive can cause future bond failure of the AquaTread marine flooring. Always monitor the adhesive application process to ensure sufficient coverage.

Place the AquaTread marine flooring roll on deck with 3-4 inch tail over the edge. Unroll the flooring and use a 75 lb roll to press the flooring into the adhesive as it is being unrolled across the deck. The AquaTread should be flat and smooth on the adhesive, avoid trapping air or forming ridges. Roll the AquaTread marine flooring in length and width with a seventy-five-pound weighted roller as soon as the material is set in to the adhesive. Ensure 100% adhesive transfer between the two surfaces. For best results reroll after one hour.

For additional details, please contact the adhesive manufacturers listed below:

ChemLink Polymer Innovation  
353 East Lyons Street  
Schoolcraft, MI 49087  
269.679.7674

For further information please contact your AquaTread<sup>®</sup> marine flooring Representative or Better Life Technology.