

Materials, Fasteners, and Tools for Building a Composite Deck

In the past, there were two choices when it came to deciding what material to use for building a deck – wood, or a different wood. There were more choices though for what construction fasteners to use to hold your deck together – nails or screws. When it came down to how to use these fasteners to fasten your deck material, you were pretty much limited to attaching from the top. This left the nails or screws visible, and prone to working upward to become toe-stubbing obstacles.

Today's products offer a much broader selection of both materials and methods. For instance, you can choose between wood, plastic, or a combination of the two in the form of composite decking materials. And for holding it all together, you can choose a combination of a nail and screw – a hybrid SCRAIL® fastener. Plus, you can now create a smooth surface free from visible fastener heads by using the InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System.

Composite Decking Material:

- Composite decking is made from a combination of different materials, primarily plastic and wood.
- The wood can be byproducts from other lumber products, including wood chips, wood fiber and sawdust. The plastic can be a new product, or recycled materials such as bottles.
- The components are mixed together, preservatives and pigments are added, the materials are heated and formed into lengths that are the same dimensions as wood decking boards. The composite boards are molded to give the appearance of wood texture and grain.
- Composite decking materials are typically heavier than wood, but not quite as strong. However, they don't rot, warp, or produce splinters that can become splinters in bare feet, or succumb to damaging termites.
- Additionally, composite materials don't need to be painted, sealed, or stained. They will, however, fade somewhat when exposed to the elements.
- It's important to keep composite decking swept clean and hosed down twice a year with soap and water. Any spills should be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- Composite decking boards come in a wide variety of colors and textures, and many closely resemble genuine wood boards.

Adding a deck to a home is not only an excellent way to expand the living space, it will also increase the market value of the home. If a new deck is made of composite material and installed with a hidden deck fastening system, both aspects will be enhanced.

By using the InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System for building your composite deck, you will avoid the problem of boards that warp, squeak or creak, and there will be no rusty nails or screws to detract from the beauty of your deck's surface. All of the fasteners are hidden from view while provide a strong, durable and long-lasting connection.

The InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System, and the entire family of SCRAIL® fasteners, is offered by Fasco America®, the North American distributor for the BECK Fastener Group®. For more than a century, the BECK Fastener Group® has been manufacturing and distributing innovative and versatile construction fasteners designed to meet an extensive range of building needs. The BECK group is widely acknowledged as the leader in new, advanced, and multipurpose construction fastener manufacturing, focused on quality that will last into the next century.

Advantages of using the InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System for composite deck construction:

- Save time and labor costs
- Create flawlessly smooth deck board surfaces
- Specially designed for use with composite materials
- This system has been determined to achieve the hold-down force required to withstand Category 5 winds
- Hybrid nail screw SCRAIL® fasteners can easily be adjusted
- The InvisiDeck® Hidden Scrail® Fastening System was named [Best Products Winner for 2010](#) by Builder News Magazine

The **InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System** features two styles of innovative clips and offers a custom installation tool. The clips are a result of the BECK Fastener Group® securing an agreement for the exclusive distribution of the patented Tiger Claw hidden deck fasteners and the accompanying InvisiDeck® Tool.

Brett McCutcheon, National Sales and Marketing Manager for Fasco America®, explained, *“Fasco America® chose Tiger Claw, now owned by OMG, as our partner for this project due to a common adherence to product quality and innovation, combined with superior customer service, and excellent industry reputation.”*

InvisiDeck® I-CLP Clips:

- InvisiDeck® I-CLP Clips are made of heavy gauge stainless steel and are designed for pre-grooved decking material one-inch or thicker. I-CLP Clips may also be used on non-grooved boards that have been modified with the InvisiDeck® Groove Cutter.
- I-CLP clips can be installed quickly and easily from above the deck surface using the InvisiDeck® Tool, or the InvisiDeck® Installation Gun. These clips are best installed with collated SCRAIL® construction fasteners.
- By utilizing the InvisiDeck® Tool, it's possible to install I-CLP Clips at speeds three to five times faster than conventional installation.
- I-CLP Clips feature the proprietary FasCoat® finish, approved for all outdoor environments except extreme salinity. Also available are stainless steel SCRAIL® construction fasteners for extreme harsh environments.
- One retail box of 930 SCRAIL® fasteners covers approx. 500 sq. ft. (46 sq. meters), enough for the average decking project.
- I-CLP Clips are designed for use with a variety of composite materials, including the following:
 - ChoiceDek and Moisture Shield (A.E.R.T.), Brasilia, Escapes, Transcend, Contours, Origins and Accents (Trex non-grooved), Tropics, Horizon, Premium Grain and Professional (Fiberon), Latitudes and Veranda (Universal Forest Products), Earthwood, ReliaBoard and TwinFinish (TimberTech non-grooved), Evergrain and Elements (Tamko).

InvisiDeck® B-CLP Clips:

- B-CLP clips are available for non-grooved composite boards.
- Just like the rest of the InvisiDeck® Hidden Fastening System, the new B-CLP Clips create a smooth decking surface free from any visible fastener heads.
- The B-CLP Clips, however, are uniquely designed for manual installations using non-collated bulk construction fasteners, perfect for jobs where an air compressor or air tools are unavailable or inappropriate. Many such projects require fewer construction fasteners, so the B-CLP clips are packed 90 to a box, which can cover a 50 square foot decking surface.

- Constructed from heavy gauge stainless steel for strength and durability, the innovative B-CLP Clips also save labor time and cost compared to other hidden fastener installations, since all work is conveniently done from the top of the decking boards.
- B-CLP Clips come in three varieties:
 - The B-CLP1 and B-CLP2 Softwood Deck Clips are ideally crafted for soft and low-density woods.
 - B-CLP3 Composite/Mahogany/PVC Clip was developed for use with synthetic or composite decking materials and for medium density hardwood varieties. The B-CLP3 clip works with ChoiceDek, Geo Deck, Moisture Shield, Trex Accents, Trex Escapes, Tuf-Deck, Ultra Deck Hollow, Veka, Weather Ready (Gossen) and for lumber decking including Cambara, Meranti and other medium-density Mahogany. It is made of heavy gauge stainless steel with black oxide coating, making it suitable for use in coastal or other harsh environments.

McCutcheon notes, *“Not only do these B-CLP Clips accelerate project completion time and improve the beauty of the deck, they also preserve its appearance and value by eliminating splitting, splintering and cupping.”*

Both the InvisiDeck® I-CLP and B-CLP Clip systems provide a hidden fastening system for virtually any decking application need. This [downloadable file](#) outlines safety tips for using InvisiDeck® clips.

InvisiDeck® Tool:

- The InvisiDeck® Tool is an installation gun that attaches the clips by driving a hybrid nail/screw SCRAIL® fastener into each joist in the same manner as driving a nail, but the fastener can be removed or adjusted in the same manner as a traditional screw.
 - The SCRAIL® Faster Fastener® is a performance-driven crossover combining a screw and a nail. These amazing construction fasteners offer many advantages over the common nail or screw. Their unique configuration provides dramatically increased holding power when compared to the common screw or nail. SCRAIL® construction fasteners are designed and manufactured specifically for ease of use in most commercially available coil or strip nailers.
- When compared to conventional deck installation methods, speed to completion can be as much as three to five times faster when using 33° collated strip InvisiDeck® SCRAIL® fasteners applied with the pneumatic InvisiDeck® Installation Tool. When compared to most traditional hidden fastener systems, the Fasco-branded InvisiDeck® Tool can cut installation time in half.
- The InvisiDeck® Tool has a patent-pending nose designed to securely hold InvisiDeck® I-CLP Clips for ease of application. More information on the the InvisiDeck® Tool can be found [online](#).

The InvisiDeck® Hidden SCRAIL® Fastening System is part of this broad assortment of construction fastening products from the BECK Fastener Group®. There is an InvisiDeck® Hidden Fastening System for virtually every decking application, so you can enjoy your beautiful new composite deck for many years.

Complete details on the InvisiDeck® Hidden Scrail® Fastening System are available [online](#). Step-by-step installation instructions can be reviewed through this [downloadable file](#).

To learn more about BeckDeck® fasteners and the entire line of SCRAIL® construction fasteners, [contact](#) our main office or the regional manager serving your area. Additional information is available on the SCRAIL® [Facebook Page](#) and videos are on [YouTube](#).

Fasco America®
105 Industrial Park
P. O. Box 2389
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662

Master Distributor



Phone Toll Free 800-239-TOOL (8665) or fax 256-381-6659
www.fascoamerica.com

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