

BOAT DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDE

BEFORE INSTALLING SKYDEX please take a few minutes to read this guide
THIS IS A GUIDE as every boatyard will have their own methods for installation
NO GLUE INSTALLATION is only for users of craft that do not expect flooded decks
GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION is recommended for all military and commercial applications

TOOLS & MATERIALS CHECK LIST

NO GLUE INSTALLATION

Tools required when SKYDEX is not glued down

- TAPE MEASURE** - Fine detail measurements are best with a fixed ruler
- PEN** - Use small marks as guides that can be wiped off
- METAL RIGHT ANGLE & STRAIGHT EDGE** - Preferably at least 24" (60cm)
- STANLEY KNIFE & SPARE BLADES** - ENSURE SAFE CUTTING AT ALL TIMES
- TEMPLATING MATERIAL** - Use cardboard to mark round fittings as a pattern
- CUTTING BOARD** - Use MDF or similar non-grain material for accurate cuts

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Materials required when SKYDEX is glued down

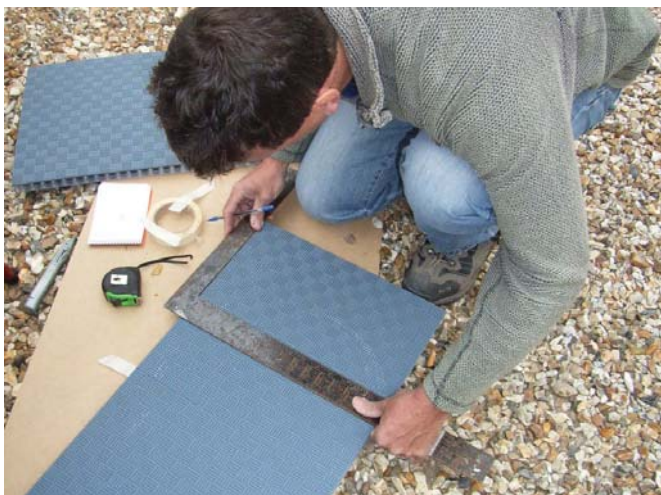
- CLEANING THINNERS** - Use White Spirit or similar to clean & de-grease deck
- SANDPAPER** - Use to prepare deck surface for adhesive
- ADHESIVE** - Use 3M4200 or similar. Approx 1 tube for x3 panels @ 30"x15"
- ADHESIVE GUN APPLICATOR** - Ensure correct size to suit adhesive in tubes
- PLASTIC SPREADER** - Use with adhesive in 'tubs'. Also useful for tube adhesives
- CLOTHS** - For use with thinners and removal of surplus adhesive

REMOVAL OF EXISTING ADHESIVE DECK GRIP

Tools and materials required to remove old deck covering and prepare deck

- SUGGESTED SCRAPERS** - Wide 4" (100mm) Narrow 1" (25mm) Razor type
- ADHESIVE REMOVER** - To manufacturers recommendation or general purpose

NOTE: SOME DECK MATERIALS USE STRONG ADHESIVES AND ARE HARD TO REMOVE



Measuring SKYDEX with combined straight edge and right angle



Use knife to cut SKYDEX top surface then turn material over to cut bottom surface

Using SKYDEX Boat Decking for RETRO FIT projects

SKYDEX is simple to install but careful planning and measuring are essential. For more information refer to [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) on back page. If installing SKYDEX on a RHIB consider deflating tubes to give easier deck access.

PREPARING THE DECK

- Remove existing decking material by lifting at edges and peeling
- Remove adhesive residue with scraper and liquid cleaner then neutralise
- If deck has rough moulded texture use sandpaper to level out high spots
- Ensure deck area to be covered with SKYDEX is de-greased, clean and dry

MEASURING & MARKING OUT THE DECK

- Decide on SKYDEX panel layout and mark deck with pen. [See FAQ #1 & #2](#)
- Work from deck centreline for symmetry and use full panels wherever possible
- Try to avoid panel seams under expected feet positions wherever possible [See FAQ #3](#)
- Decide whether to work up to or cover raised external flanges on seats etc [See FAQ #4](#)
- If inspection hatches are covered with SKYDEX mark locations for access [See FAQ #5 & #6](#)
- The 45° rubber moulding can be used to reduce 'trip hazards'. [See FAQ #7](#)

CUTTING SKYDEX

- Measure and cut around deck fittings using cardboard templates if required
- Mark & follow lines on Cross Hatch pattern to ensure cutting a straight edge
- To cut top surface make 2 to 3 cuts using sharp knife and metal straight edge
- To cut bottom surface turn Skydex over or bend apart then use straight edge

'NO GLUE' INSTALLATION

- If doing a 'no glue' installation SKYDEX Joining Clips can be used to link panels
- A minimum of x2 Joining Clips should be used on every panel straight edge
- Large SKYDEX panels can be used to create shaped cuts around seats etc

'GLUE DOWN' INSTALLATION

- Read adhesive manufacturers instructions regarding safety, temperature etc
- Identify whether the adhesive you are using is 'permanent' or 'liftable'
- Spread adhesive evenly on deck and butt edges of Skydex panels together
- Butt edges of SKYDEX panels together without using adhesive in the join
- If using 'beads' or lines of adhesive ensure outer edges of panels are glued
- Avoid walking on glued SKYDEX panels until adhesive has fully cured

Using SKYDEX Boat Decking for NEW BUILD projects

Large SKYDEX panels can be used as templates on the bare decks of new boats

- Cut Skydex to fit across beam and fore & aft but do not glue down SKYDEX
- Place seats and deck equipment in position on SKYDEX and mark bases
- Cut the marked sections out of the large panel of SKYDEX
- Use this 'cut out' SKYDEX as a template for positioning seats and equipment

Examples of SKYDEX Boat Decking Installations



Deck fitting before SKYDEX



Deck fitting with SKYDEX



Remove existing material



Glue down installation



External console flange



Tapering at deck edge



Mark inspection hatches



Shaping between seats



Cut SKYDEX panels around deck fittings



Simply cut SKYDEX panels to size

Boat Decking FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) relate to instructions on Page 2.
Please refer to www.skydex.com for answers to other questions.

FAQ #1: What is the best panel layout for a jockey or straddle seat layout?

ANSWER: Where the deck space between rows of seat bases is less than 15" (380mm) consider laying SKYDEX panels fore and aft.
Consider laying SKYDEX panels across beam in deck areas where there are no seats.

FAQ #2: What is the best panel layout for a bench seat or leaning post layout?

ANSWER: Where the deck space between rear edge of console and seat base is less than 30" (760mm) consider laying SKYDEX panels fore and aft.
Consider laying SKYDEX panels across beam in smaller deck spaces between seats.

FAQ #3: Why try to avoid SKYDEX panel seams under expected feet positions?

ANSWER: Seams are not a problem but feet positions in the middle of panels are preferred. The reason is that the function of SKYDEX is marginally improved when more hemispheres are engaged underfoot.

FAQ #4: How do you install SKYDEX up to seat bases, consoles & deck fittings that have raised external flanges?

ANSWER Option 1: Finish SKYDEX at the edge of raised external flanges.
ANSWER Option 2: Trim away bottom hemispheres to the required thickness over flange. SKYDEX cushioning is reduced but Cross Hatch grip surface is retained.
ANSWER Option 3: Use another SKYDEX material of the same thickness as the raised external flanges to cover bare deck areas. See price list for other SKYDEX materials. Then use a second layer of SKYDEX to cover entire area up to seat bases and console.

FAQ #5: How do you cover flush deck hatches with SKYDEX to allow for future access?

ANSWER: Cut a square or rectangular SKYDEX panel slightly larger than the circular or oval hatch. Use Velcro to attach removable SKYDEX panel to hatch.

FAQ #6: How do you cover raised deck inspection hatches with SKYDEX?

ANSWER: Thinner SKYDEX can be used to cover raised hatches. See price list for other SKYDEX materials that can be combined to various thicknesses.

FAQ #7: How is the 45° rubber moulding fitted to the exposed SKYDEX panel ends?

ANSWER: Cut the 45° rubber moulding to length. The profile of the moulding engages with the open SKYDEX edge and is glued to the deck.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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