
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

6 Inch vs 4 Inch Decking: An Aesthetic Decision



6" WIDE DECK BOARDS



4" WIDE DECK BOARDS

Deciding between 6" wide (net 5.5") and 4" wide boards for your deck is largely a matter of aesthetics.

The 6" width is the standard in most markets and is particularly common for composite decking. However, in the North East U.S., especially Long Island, NY, 4" decking is quite popular.

Notably, 4" boards are used on the Atlantic City and Disney boardwalks, while 6" boards are more typical for other boardwalks.

A key advantage of 6" wide boards is that they need fewer fasteners, which reduces both material and labor costs.

On the other hand, 4" decking resembles traditional flooring, as porch floors are typically 4" wide. Additionally, in wood decks, 4" boards offer better dimensional stability; combining increased thickness with decreased width generally enhances stability.

Ultimately, the choice between 6" and 4" boards is mainly about aesthetics, with natural wood decking providing both options.