

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

- Using a standard 18V cordless drill and the Cortex setting tool, drive the Cortex fastener to the preset level below the deck surface. The Cortex screw must be driven perpendicular to the deck, with two screws per joist. Continuously drive the fastener at one speed until the setting tool disengages on its own. Do not stop and start the drive as this may affect the finished appearance. The setting of the Cortex screw creates a cored-out hole in the deck surface.
- Place the Cortex engineered plug into the hole with the deck surface side up.
- Gently tap the plug into the hole until the plug is flush with the deck surface.

### INSTALLATION TIPS

#### Setting the Cortex fastener:

- **Correct Depth:** The Cortex setting tool is required to ensure that the Cortex screw is set at the correct depth.
- **Correct Plug Connection:** The Cortex screw must be driven perpendicular to the deck surface for proper fit and ideal finished look.

#### Setting the Cortex engineered plug:

- To create a strong bond, the cored hole must be free of dirt or rain water.

#### Using other screws and plugs:

- The FastenMaster Cortex Concealed Fastening System has been highly engineered to offer ultimate long term performance. The interaction between deck, fastener and plug is essential. Use of non-Cortex screw or non-Cortex plug will nullify the FastenMaster Warranty.

#### Predrilling:

- To ensure ultimate performance, predrilling is required at butt joints and at the ends of boards. In keeping with common building practices, we also recommend that you “sister” a board at butt joint connections.

### WARRANTY

FastenMaster fully guarantees the performance of the FastenMaster Cortex Concealed Fastening System for the following performance attributes for the life of your project:

- **Plug connection:** When set correctly as described above, FastenMaster guarantees that the Cortex plugs will not rise above the deck surface.
- **Plug coloration:** FastenMaster guarantees that the Cortex plugs will weather to the same tone as the matching composite decking. Weathering process can take a few weeks or months depending on the specific board and intensity of the sunlight.
- **Fastener corrosion:** The FastenMaster Cortex screw has been tested and is guaranteed for use in ACQ, Copper Azole pressure treated lumber.

FastenMaster offers a full money back guarantee for the retail price of the product to anyone who is dissatisfied with the product. In addition, FastenMaster will replace all plugs and/or screws that are not performing correctly at no cost to the installer.

While FastenMaster takes responsibility for the above stated performance of this fastener, the FastenMaster Cortex Concealed Fastening System is fully recognized and approved by Trex, TimberTech and AZEK Deck.