Panel Installation Guide

Tool List:

1.  **Trowel**

   A 1/16 x 1/32 x 1/32 inch square-notched trowel. You will be using this to spread out the glue. Remember to clean your trowel after each use.

2.  **Floor Roller**

   This is used to ensure that a proper bond is achieved when laying your deck.

3. 

Denatured Alcohol

   You will use this to prep and clean everything. Please avoid harsher chemicals such as acetone.

4.  **A Good Stack of Clean White Rags**

   Use WHITE rags! Any rags with color dye in them can bleed due to the denatured alcohol.

5.  **Sausage Gun**

   Holds and dispenses the sausage glue, making glue application much easier.

6.  **Sausage Glue**

   We only recommend the use of our PlasDECK sausage glue to install the decking because it is formulated to work with the material for maximum adhesion and it won't discolor or harm the PlasDECK. Cure time of the glue is dependent on moisture in the air, air temperature, and the size of the area that you are decking. Please allow 12 to 24 hours for full cure.

Before You Begin:

PlasDECK panels are usually rolled for shipping. Remove the PlasDECK panels from the shipping tube, unroll them, and lay them flat on a clean surface. Let the panels rest until they stay nice and flat:



Surface Prep:

PlasDECK is very forgiving and the surface of the boat doesn't have to be as flat as possible. Just keep in mind that any areas where there is a notable bump or ridge may cause a lump on the deck. Clean off any dust and debris on the boat with a shop-vac and then wipe it down with denatured alcohol. The cleaner the boat is, the better the adhesion will be.

Thoroughly clean the bottom of the PlasDECK panel with denatured alcohol as well, just before you are ready to glue the piece down.





Dry Fit:

Place the PlasDECK panel on the surface where it will be applied and adjust to the exact fit. After you have the placement correct, trace around the panel with a pencil and create a perimeter line. This pencil line will determine where your glue stops. If the mat will be laid inside of a recessed area (like in the photos below), a pencil line will not be necessary:




Gluing:

Remember to work in small sections when gluing down the PlasDECK because the glue sets up quickly - particularly in hot, humid conditions. Using the sausage gun, dispense the glue onto the deck in a zigzag pattern about 6” to 8” wide. Use a 1/16 inch square-notched trowel to spread the glue to an even pattern keeping within your pencil lines or within the bounds of the recessed area:





Once you have troweled out enough glue to cover the area, go back over the glue with the trowel, holding the trowel at a 45 degree angle to gather excess glue. It doesn’t take much glue to adhere the panel – a fine film will be fine. (A thick layer of glue doesn’t make a better bond.) Make sure that the grooves made from your trowel end up running in the same direction that the caulk lines will run in the decking panel. This alignment will help push out any trapped air when you go over the panel with a floor roller.

When Gluing Larger Panels:

1. Start by gluing down the middle of the panel:



Important Note!

Make sure that you don't kneel on areas that have already been glued. This can cause depressions or bumps in the decking.

2. Work your way from the middle towards one end of the panel, applying the glue in small sections at a time:





4. Unroll the panel and lay the PlasDECK into the glue as you work towards the ends.




5. Repeat on the other side of the panel:






Using the Floor Roller:

After each section of PlasDECK is glued down, be sure to roll over the PlasDECK with the floor roller using a firm, even pressure. Use long strokes, pushing from one end of the panel to the other – avoid short back-and-forth roller strokes. Roll in the direction of the caulk lines in the decking (which is the same direction that you troweled the glue). This will help push out any air or excess glue.






After you've finished rolling, check the decking at eye level to ensure that the PlasDECK is level and that there are no fluctuations. Any raised areas are caused by air pockets or too much adhesive. To adjust this, you can lift and reapply your mat using even more pressure with the floor roller.

Glue Clean Up:

Be sure to clean excess glue as go. Use the denatured alcohol to wipe any excess glue around panels, and clean the trowel with denatured alcohol between each use. The glue is much easier to remove if you clean it before it starts to cure:



Special Considerations for Hatches:

Overall, decking on a hatch will be installed in the same way as the other PlasDECK panels. However, there are a few things that you will want to consider. Before you glue either the hatch or the surrounding decking, lay them both out and make sure that the lines in the two pieces are going to line up correctly. It's crucial that the lines line up correctly from section to section and that they are straight from fore to aft. You will want to install the decking that surrounds the hatch first:





Then, make sure that the PlasDECK on the hatch will be spaced correctly. Here, we used wooden spacers to help position the decking on a hatch:




Dry-fit the hatch again, using extra care. Make sure that the lines in the decking on the hatch line up perfectly with the lines on the surrounding PlasDECK:




Finish installation on the hatch by gluing, troweling, and rolling as usual:





Special Considerations for Deck Hardware:

Most PlasDECK panels will arrive pre-cut for hardware like this round access hatch. First, check the fit of the PlasDECK panel. Then trowel the glue right up to the outer edge of the access hatch to mark your boundaries:




Finish spreading the glue. Then carefully lay the panel into the glue and use the floor roller on it:





Clean any excess glue with a clean rag and denatured alcohol as soon as possible:



Letting the Glue Cure:

The sausage glue generally has a work time of about 15 minutes and will skin over in about 20 minutes. Work time and cure time is reliant on the moisture in the air, air temperature, and the size of the area that you are decking. The higher the heat and humidity, the faster it cures. Please allow 12 to 24 hours to fully cure.