

Ipe

Features

Ipe (also known as Lapacho Greenheart), botanically *Tabebuia serratifolia* (EN 13556 = TBXX), is a very durable wood species (durability class 1) from South America and is one of the most stable and durable hardwoods. Ipe is green-yellow in colour and quickly changes colour to olive brown under the influence of sunlight.

The most important countries of origin are Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. We import Ipe exclusively according to the rules of the European Timber Regulation 995/2010 (EUTR), which guarantees a transparent declaration of legality.

Ipe is particularly suitable for installation without visible screws, especially with the B-Fix clips (see Pdf B-Fix).

Installation advice

- Ventilation: Do not close the border of the deck, keep at least 2 cm free under the fascia boards for air circulation.
- Water must be able to drain under the structure (rubber wedges/ pedestals).
- Minimum distance between the deck and the ground is 4 cm, (10 cm if the ground is wet).
- The structure should preferably be designed for a 2% slope in the longitudinal direction of the deck boards.
- The spaces between boards must be at least 3 mm. For boards that have already dried, you will need to calculate further. Measure the actual width and add this difference to the planing width. Example: 145 mm planing width for 140 mm actual width + 3 mm joint = **8 mm board spacing**.
- At each connection point, 2 stainless steel screws (min. 5 mm diameter), pre-drilled 1-2 cm inside the board edge.
- For aluminium joists, you need an EPDM spacer strip (self-adhesive 5x10 mm) and the stainless steel screws with drilling point for aluminium joists (wall thickness 2 mm).

Special features

- Installation without slope: based on durability class 1, Ipe can be installed without a slope. Disadvantage: more surface cracks, more intensive maintenance, water stains and slippage.
- Ipe is also available with the B-Fix-Clip system (all other profiles are screwed on).
- Cross-grain, surface cracks can occur, but much less than with other hardwoods. Light sanding may be necessary to reduce the cross grain.
- Rich in colour, often at the beginning large colour differences between boards are possible, this is because Ipe develops its colour panels through sunlight.
- Bleeding: light
- Pinholes: rare (small pinholes from worms that used to live in the tree, no new pinholes possible)
- Cracking and warping: unavoidable in this weight class, but much less than other hardwoods due to the low shrinkage and swelling coefficient.

Maintenance

Ipe as it ages develops superficial cracks due to weather conditions. This uniform greying is often desired.

If you do not want this grey colour or cracks in the surface, we recommend regular oiling of the surface, which will reduce these effects. Use only pigmented patio oil with minimal film formation (Note: check the suitability of the oil on a small area before starting). Maintenance is required at least once a year, depending on location and weather conditions. After winter, it is recommended to use an anti-algae product to prevent slipping.

ATTENTION: like almost all wood, it reacts to contact with iron, which can cause strong discolouration (which can be visually mistaken for mould): use only stainless steel screws. Tools (bits and drill bits) must be cleaned of metal splinters before use. Avoid contact with lawn fertilizers and cement (these contain traces of iron). If this has nevertheless occurred, see the information sheet Reaction of iron oxide/oxalic acid!

Technical data (CIRAD)

Colour: green-yellow to brown, then turn grey

Durability class 1 (heartwood), less sapwood

Density approx. 1040 kg/m³

Total tangential shrinkage : 6.4%.

Total radial shrinkage: 5.1%.

Fibre saturation point: 20%.

Flexural strength of approx. 166 MPa (N/mm²)

Compressive strength approx. 95 Mpa (N/mm²)