

## LETTERS

### Poor Website Photos

I recently was directed to your website for downloading PDF reprints of your articles. My hope was that I could replace the piles of clippings that I have taken from your magazine over the years with fresh copies. Unfortunately, what I found was that the size and resolution of the photos in the PDF files were miniscule in comparison to the large, beautiful photos in their printed counterparts. Large photographs are essential for clarifying points in the text; having such small photos in the PDF versions of your articles defeats this purpose.

**Steve Ortiz**  
Elgin, S.C.

*Most articles on our website (deckmagazine.com) that have appeared in print are available as PDF downloads. When you view the PDF or print it out, you'll see that the page layout—and the size of each photo relative to the text—is virtually identical to that of a printed page. By necessity, however, the resolution of each photo is fairly low; otherwise, it would take a very long time to download a PDF article. We're looking into ways to improve photo resolution in our PDFs while keeping file sizes to a reasonable 1.5 to 2 MB. It's a bit of a balancing act, but one of the reasons that print isn't dead yet is that it's hard to replicate the quality of the printed page in a digital format. —The Editor*

### Another Fan of Wood Decking

Wood decks are our bread and butter, and we try to always use treated southern yellow pine that's been quartersawn. To find good stock, I will spend hours at the lumberyard, and when I stage the lumber on the jobsite, I go through everything again piece by piece; if it doesn't meet my standards, I send it back. The only thing I do differently [from author John Paulin, "Wood Decks That Last," Nov 2013] is that I don't seal the decking immediately after I've installed it. It gets cold here early in the year, and the sealants won't penetrate the lumber. We often order upgraded treated lumber, and it does make a difference.

**Matt Cooper**

From online comments

### Ground Contact

The definition of "ground contact" as it applies to pressure-treated lumber seems to be vague. Does "ground" mean dirt or accumulated water? What if the treated lumber is in contact with concrete or a correctly installed paver base at ground level that is sloped for drainage, such as would be the case with stair stringers? Adding to the confusion, many lumber suppliers do a poor job of labeling or even stocking ground-contact lumber in sizes typically used for stair stringers. I often see prefabricated stair stringers with only 0.19 ACQ retention levels, and rarely see 2x12 stock with the 0.40 pcf recommended for ACQ lumber.

**Ken Young**

From online comments

### A Quick Way to Treat Bolt Holes

When treating cut ends with preservative, don't forget to treat the bolt holes too. An easy way to do this is to dunk your bolts in the preservative first, and then put them in. It seems to help if you spin the bolts around as you insert them into the hole.

**Todd Oskin**

From online comments

# Drive

## Wood Deck Screws

*DSV: fast-starting deck screw for fastening preservative-treated wood decks*



### Not Your Ordinary Fastener

- Up to 35% more screws driven per battery charge
- Countersinks cleanly with under-head nibs
- Withstands swelling and shrinkage with fast-growth lumber
- Quik Guard® coating provides added corrosion resistance

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