

## Installing Pool Fence DIY on a wood deck

Installing a Pool Fence DIY in a wood deck is similar to installing in pavers on sand/crushed stone in that drilling it out and setting plastic sleeves directly into the wood will not provide sufficient support. What you need to do is add wood blocks underneath every hole you drill. After installing the wood supports you can then drill out and set plastic sleeves in as usual.

To install the wood supports simply follow these steps:

1. First mark out the pool as if marking out for a regular concrete deck job.
2. Next you will need to add your wood supports underneath every mark you have drawn. There are three ways of doing this. (1) The first way, and the most common way is to pull up the board next to or parallel to the marked board/s. Carefully tap a piece of angle iron (See Fig. 31) in between the deck boards. Using a hammer, tap a pry bar between the board and the angle iron enough so that the pry part of the pry bar is underneath the board. Then carefully and slowly pry the board up until the nails release from the first support beams underneath the deck. (See Fig. 33) Now take a second pry bar and walk the board up the rest of the length. (See Fig. 34) (When dealing with rotted wood, at the first sound of the board cracking or splitting, it is a good idea to just put it back down and choose another board or be prepared to replace the deck boards. If when you do the estimate and notice the customer's deck boards are rotted and can potentially crack while pulling them up make the customer aware and include charges in the estimate for board replacement if necessary.)
3. Once all the boards are pulled up now you can block. The ideal size of a wood block should be a 2" X 6" cut into 8" lengths. (See Fig. 32) The ideal wood to use is CCA, pressure treated, or 30 year wood. Do not use regular wood. It will most likely rot out before warranty is up. There are three ways of positioning the block. In all cases it is to ensure that the block will cover the entire area underneath the marked hole.
4. The main way of positioning the block is called Fat Ways (See Fig. 35a) (or lying the block with the 4" side flush with the bottom of the deck board). This works when the marked hole is on a board with no support beams underneath the marked hole itself. The second way of positioning a wood block is Skinny Ways. (See Fig. 35b) This style of blocking is used when your marked hole is half over a support beam and half not. The third way is 2 Skinny. (See Fig. 35c) You use this blocking technique when you have a double hole surrounding a beam or one hole half on the support and the second hole is not. The Skinny technique is used to prevent the spade bit from skipping out after drilling through the wood block.
5. Once you have determined the necessary positioning of the block for the application you can then sink two 3" galvanized, stainless, or coated screws through the deck board and into the block. It is a good idea to counter sink all screws. Also counter the screws in the block so that the block won't split and/or crack off. (See Fig. 35)
6. Now all your holes are blocked you can replace your deck boards exactly how they were and drill out the fence. With the wood supports you can treat the job as though it were installed in concrete and set regular plastic sleeves into the deck.
7. (2) The second way of blocking is the easiest but in most cases not possible. The second way of blocking is if there is access underneath the deck. This works best when you have a helper with you.
8. Mark out deck as usual. Then drill out the deck once. This allows for the man underneath the deck to see how he needs to position the block and where. Once block/s are in position the man on the top of the deck screws down into the block. Next drill out the deck for the second time, sleeve with plastic and you are done.
9. (3) The third way of blocking is referred to as Snaking. This is the most difficult way but is necessary when you can not block because: The deck planks are so tight together you can not fit a pry bar between, the deck is made of an expensive wood such as mahogany and you are afraid to damage it, there is no room to get underneath, the deck boards are so rotten that pulling them up will guarantee their breakage and the customer does not want to pay for board replacement.
10. Similar to the (2) second way of blocking, you will mark out your fence and then drill it before blocking.
11. This technique is also easier if you have two men. You will need an electrician's snake and some pool fence eyelets.
12. Feed the snake into the hole you drilled to the outside of the deck. Choose the shortest easiest route to the outside of the deck to avoid getting hung up on the support beams underneath. (See Fig. 36)

13. Once you have fed the snake to the outside area of the deck, take a block and screw an eyelet into the block in such a way so that when you pull the block back underneath the deck and up to the hole, the eyelet will come through the hole you drilled and the block will cover the entire area. (See Fig. 36a and 36b)

14. The man holding the snake will pull firmly up on the snake while the other man screws down into the block. (See Fig. 37a and b) When all holes are blocked, drill out for a second time and sleeve with plastic sleeves. Sometimes a combination of all three of these blocking techniques are needed to add wood supports on a job.

Angle Iron 3-4' long  
Fig. 31

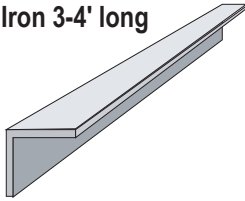
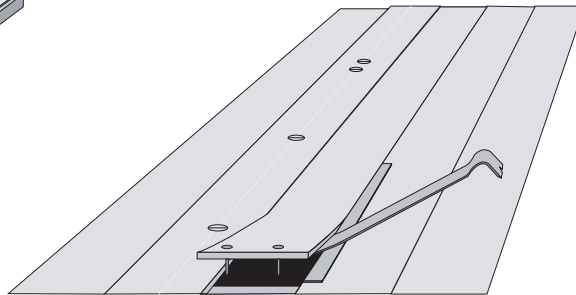


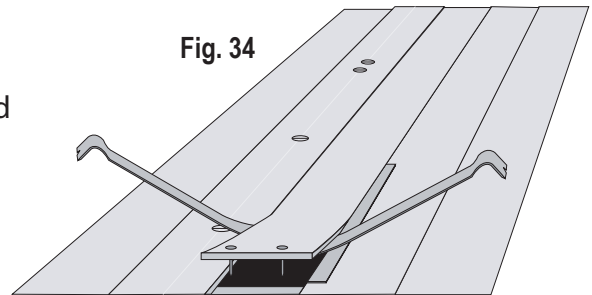
Fig. 33



Carefully pry up the deck boards that are parallel to the marked holes. Use one pry bar to get started.

When nails begin to release from the beam, take your second pry bar and work the board up the rest of the way.

Fig. 34



Use a 2 X 6" of pressure treated wood cut into 8" lengths.

Fig. 32

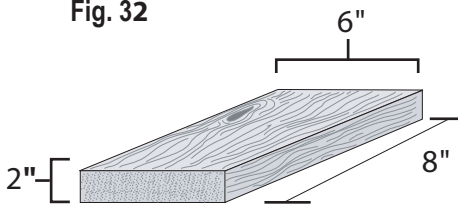


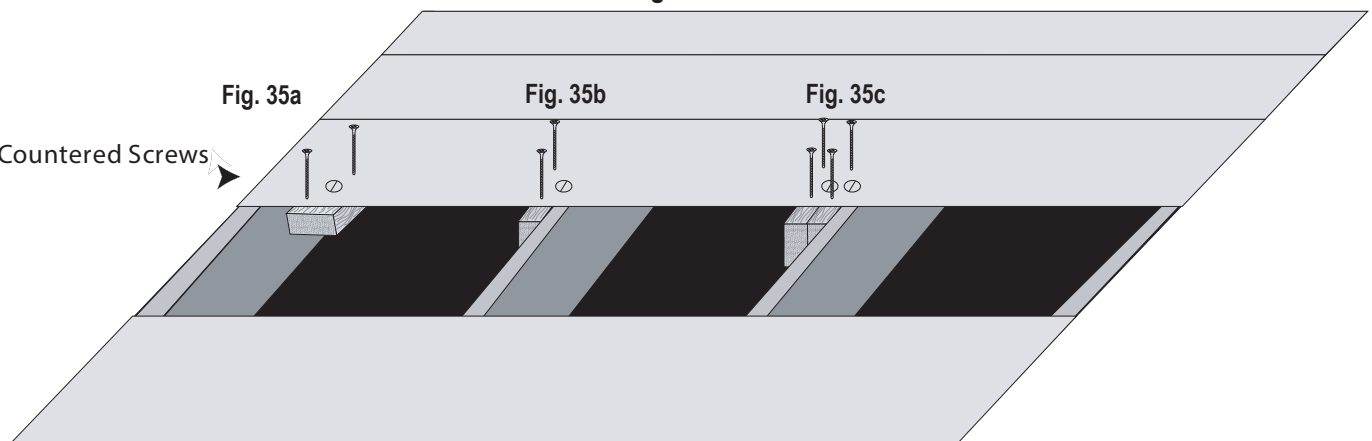
Fig. 35 Once the boards are pulled up, you then can begin to block. Make sure that you are holding the wood block the correct way for that particular hole (Fat Ways, Skinny Ways, 2 Skinny). Once the position of the block is determined you can then screw down through the deck board and into the wood block. Be sure that you counter the screws to keep the block from splitting. It is also a good idea to counter sink the screw so that it will not be a hazard when the customer is walking on the deck in their bare feet.

Fig. 35a

Fig. 35b

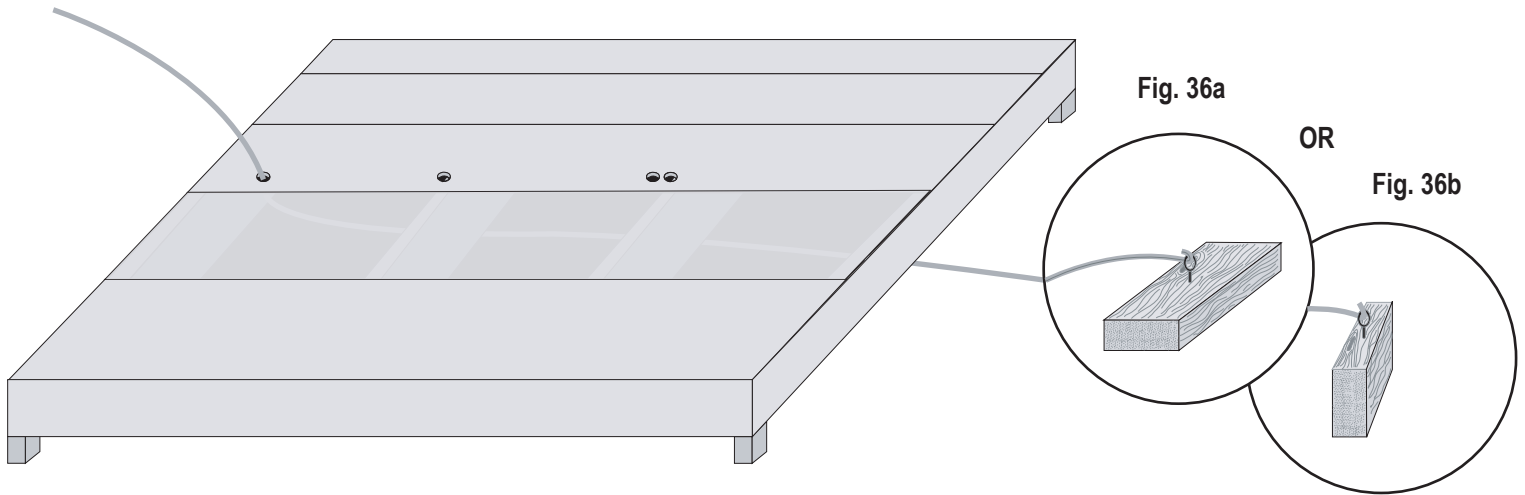
Fig. 35c

Countersunk Screws



# Wood Deck Installation Figures Cont.

**Fig. 36** After you have drilled the marked holes you can then feed the snake into the hole and work it to the outside of the deck. (Chose the shortest route possible.) Next take a block and screw an eyelet in to it. Make sure that you screw it into the correct part of the block in accordance to how the hole is set up. (Either on the Skinny side or Fat side). Now you can slip the snake through the eyelet and using a pair of pliers bend a tight hook around the eyelet so that the block will not slip off as you drag it back underneath the deck. This technique is very difficult and takes much practice if you've never used an electricians snake before.



**Fig. 37** Pull the block up firmly underneath the hole. A second man can now screw down into the block. Finally, unhook the snake and unscrew the eyelet. You can now move onto the next hole.

