Technical Bulletin #11192025-1

Best Practices for Cutting Eva-Last Pioneer PVC Decking

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This technical bulletin provides essential guidance for achieving clean, accurate cuts on Eva-Last Pioneer PVC deck boards. Pioneer is a premium product and therefore should be cut with premium tools. Correct saw and blade selections are essential to preserving the product's high-performance wear layer and ensuring long-term visual quality.

Recommended Saw Types

- **Best Option:** Miter saw
- Good Option: Plunge saw / Tracked plunge saw
- Last Option: Circular saw / Tracked circular saw
- **Counter-rotating saws are not permitted unless boards are cut upside down as they will damage the wear layer.**
    - Installers must cut boards upside down if using any counter-rotating saw. This includes table saws and panel saws.

Not Permitted Saw Types

- Manual hand saws
- Jigsaws
- Other saws

Recommended Blade Specifications

- **Tooth Count:** 80 or more teeth for 10" blades, 60 or more teeth for 7-1/4" blades.
- **Tooth Geometry:** Triple Chip Grind (TCG) or Modified TCG (M-TCG) or Trapezoidal Alternate Top Bevel (T-ATB).
- **Rake / Hook Angle:** Low, between 5° and 10°.

- **Blade Type:** Fine-cut, carbide-tipped, with a thin kerf for smooth feed and minimal heat buildup.
- **Sharpness:** Keep the blade sharp and clean to maintain cut precision and avoid heat scoring and prevent damage to your blades.
- Flat Top Grind (FTG) toothed blades **are not permitted** and will damage the surface of Pioneer boards.
- Other blade tooth configurations **are not permitted** and may damage the surface of Pioneer boards.

Maximum Blade RPM

- **Abnormally high blade RPMs are not permitted and may damage the surface of Pioneer boards.**

Blade Diameter (in)	Max Blade RPM
12	3250
10	3900
8	4900
7.25	5400
6.5	6000

Saw Blade Recommendations

- **Miter Saw Blade (12”) - Freud LU94M012**
  - Teeth Count: 96T
  - Tooth Geometry: M-TCG
  - Carbide Tipped
- **Miter Saw Blade (10”) - Freud LU94M010**
  - Teeth Count: 80T
  - Tooth Geometry: M-TCG
  - Carbide Tipped
- **Track / Plunge Saw Blade (6-1/2") - Makita A-99998**
  - Teeth Count: 60T
  - Tooth Geometry: TCG
  - Carbide Tipped
- **Hand Saw Blade (7-1/4”) - Oshlun SBNF-072560**
  - Teeth Count: 60T
  - Tooth Geometry: TCG
  - Carbide Tipped

Understanding TCG Tooth Geometry

A Triple Chip Grind (TCG) blade alternates between a trapezoidal tooth and a flat-top tooth. The trapezoid tooth scores the surface first, followed by the flat tooth that cleans out the remaining material. A Trapezoidal Alternate Top Bevel (T-ATB) blade alternates between beveled trapezoidal teeth on each side of the blade, making fine progressive alternative scores at the edges of the cut, and clearing out the previous alternative cut.

These designs produce extremely smooth, precise cuts with minimal sawdust, tear-out, or surface chipping.

Cutting Technique and Feed Rate

To achieve the best results, slow your cutting feed-rate to about 75% of your normal speed to maintain consistent blade RPM during cutting. Allow the blade to cut without forcing the material. Support the board fully and use sharp blades to ensure smooth operation and uniform edge quality.

Plunge saws, tracked plunge saws, miter saws and telescoping miter saws should be used in such a way that cutting action is downwards onto the cap surface of Pioneer products, in a steady consistent progression.

Avoid using any saw in a way which causes the cutting edge to effectively be counter rotating, for example cutting backwards with a telescoping miter saw, or cutting upside down on a normal saw.

Cut each board individually. Do not cut multiple boards stacked together.

Key Takeaways

- Always use a fine-tooth, carbide-tipped TCG, M-TCG or T-ATB blade with a low rake angle.
- Prioritize using miter saws, plunge saws and tracked plunge saws to cut Pioneer products. Avoid circular handsaws unless necessary.
- Maintain a steady consistent feed rate to prevent surface damage.
- Avoid using aggressive wood-cutting blades, which can cause damage to the cap layer.