

**FastenMaster.**

# Cortex<sup>®</sup>

**CONCEALED FASTENING SYSTEM**

**Set the screw. Set the plug.  
You're all set!**

- **Fast and Easy:** The deck boards are fastened in the same way as a traditional deck
- **Strong Connection:** A through-fastened deck offers the highest level of board-to-joint connection and deck racking strength
- **Cost Effective:** Less expensive than virtually any other hidden fastening system
- **Fully Tested:** All Cortex components have been fully tested and are guaranteed

Available for use with market-leading composite and PVC deck boards.

Photographs should not be used as a reference for fastening patterns.



**all set!**

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

### Suggested drills:

- Corded drill with 1/2" chuck
- Cordless drill with 1/2" chuck and 18V battery
- Impact driver

1. Using the setting tool, drive the fastener to the preset level below the deck surface. It must be driven perpendicular to the deck, with two screws per joist.
2. Place the plug into the cored hole and gently tap until it is flush with the deck surface.

*Cortex Tip: Use scrap wood as a striking surface to eliminate potential marring the hammer may cause.*

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The Cortex setting tool must be used to set the Cortex screw at the correct depth.
- The Cortex fastener must be driven perpendicular to the deck surface for proper fit and ideal finished look.
- The cored hole must be free of debris or moisture. Use a smooth hammer head to set the Cortex plug.
- Pre-drilling is required at butt joints and at the ends of boards. Common building practices dictate that you "sister" a joist at butt joint connections.
- Use of non-Cortex screw or non-Cortex plug will nullify the FastenMaster Warranty.

### Removing the Cortex Plug and Screw

- Remove existing plug by tapping into the plug with a trim screw.
- Using a standard #1 driver bit (not the Cortex setting tool), engage driver bit deep into screw recess prior to backing out, then reverse fastener out slowly.

*Cortex Tip: An 18V impact drill can offer best results when removing a fastener.*

### Restricted Cortex Uses

The Cortex System is designed for traditional elevated deck structures. The following applications require a different fastening method or further instructions:

- Sleeper systems: Framing rests directly on the ground or roof deck.
- Over solid wood surfaces (i.e. fascia boards, handrails, benches).
- Docks or decks with framing members in constant contact with water.
- Restricted airspace when there is less than 12" of clearance on 3 sides under deck.
- "Tear-offs" that utilize old framing as support for new decking.
- Decking materials other than 1" standard thickness (usually labeled as 5/4").

Please contact FastenMaster before building if you are unsure whether Cortex is right for your applications or if you would like further information regarding your project.

### WARRANTY

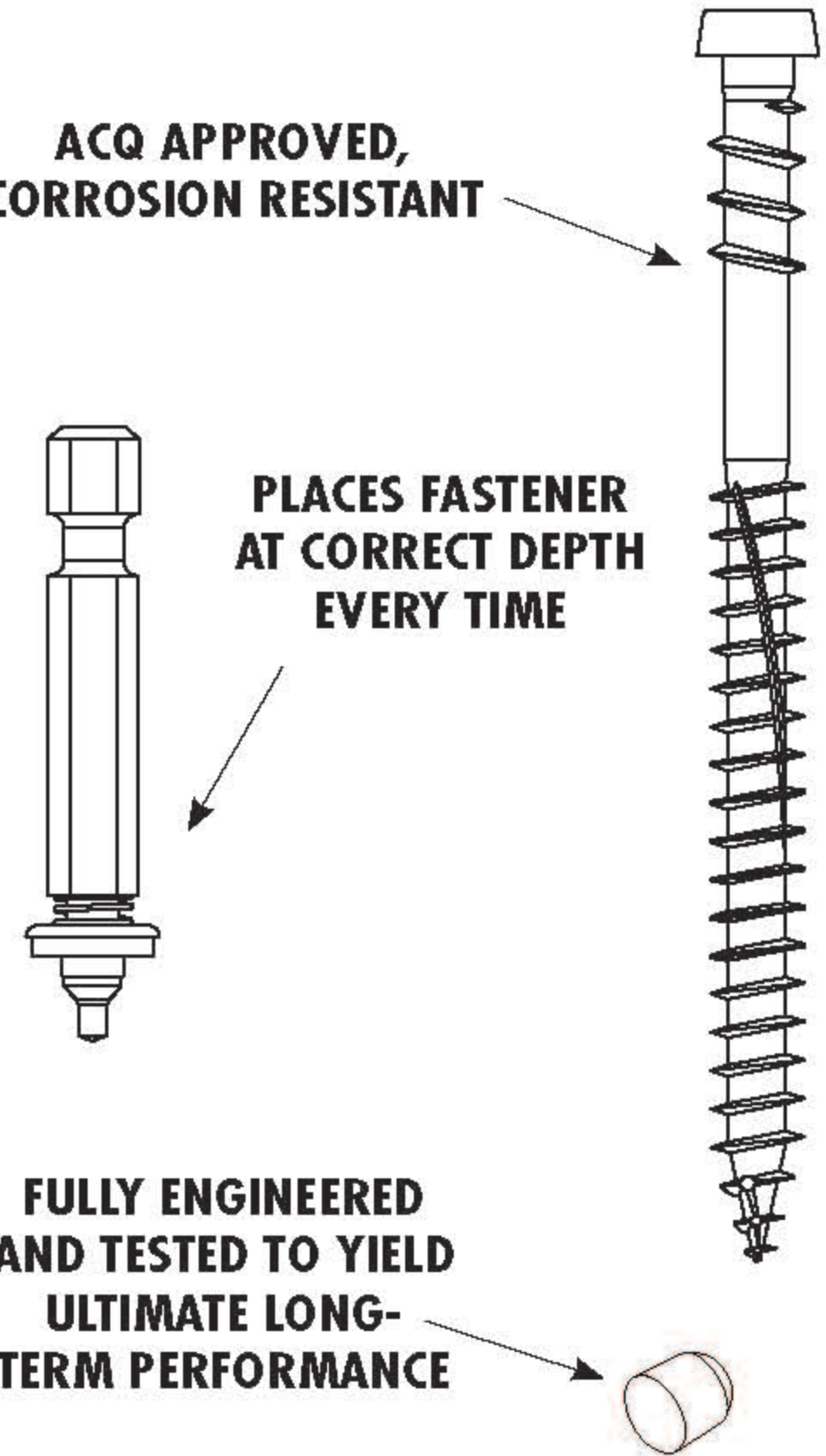
Please visit [www.FastenMaster.com](http://www.FastenMaster.com) or call FastenMaster at 800-518-3569 for a full written warranty. For technical assistance or questions regarding proper use of this system, please contact FastenMaster Technical Support at 800-518-3569 or visit [www.FastenMaster.com](http://www.FastenMaster.com).

## PRODUCT FEATURES

ACQ APPROVED,  
CORROSION RESISTANT

PLACES FASTENER  
AT CORRECT DEPTH  
EVERY TIME

FULLY ENGINEERED  
AND TESTED TO YIELD  
ULTIMATE LONG-  
TERM PERFORMANCE



## AZEK DECK

Item #	Description	Screw Length	Sq. Ft. of Deck Surface*
FMCTX-AZ100**	AZEK Deck	2 3/4"	100 sq ft
FMCTX-AZ300**	AZEK Deck	2 3/4"	300 sq ft
FMCTX3-AZ100**	AZEK Deck	3"	100 sq ft
FMCTX3-AZ300**	AZEK Deck	3"	300 sq ft

\*\*Color KEY: Acacia (ARAI), Brownstone (BS), Clay (CL), Fawn (FN), Kona (KA), Morado (ARMO), Redland Rose (ARRR), Sedona (TRSD), Slate Gray (SG), Tahoe (TRTH) White (WH)

## EVERGRAIN CLASSIC COLORS

Item #	Description	Screw Length	Sq. Ft. of Deck Surface*
FMCTX-EG100**	EverGrain Classic Colors	2 3/4"	100 sq ft
FMCTX-EG300**	EverGrain Classic Colors	2 3/4"	300 sq ft
FMCTX3-EG100**	EverGrain Classic Colors	3"	100 sq ft
FMCTX3-EG300**	EverGrain Classic Colors	3"	300 sq ft

\*\*Color KEY: Cape Code Grey (CCCG), Cedar (CCCR), Redwood (CCRW), Weathered Wood (CCWW)

## TIMBERTECH TWINFINISH

Item #	Description	Screw Length	Sq. Ft. of Deck Surface*
FMCTX-TT100**	TimberTech TwinFinish	2 3/4"	100 sq ft
FMCTX-TT300**	TimberTech TwinFinish	2 3/4"	300 sq ft
FMCTX3-TT100**	TimberTech TwinFinish	3"	100 sq ft
FMCTX3-TT300**	TimberTech TwinFinish	3"	300 sq ft

\*\*Color KEY: Cedar (TFCR), Grey (TFGY), Redwood (TFRW)

## TREX

Item #	Description	Screw Length	Sq. Ft. of Deck Surface*
FMCTX-TX100**	Trex	2 3/4"	100 sq ft
FMCTX-TX300**	Trex	2 3/4"	300 sq ft
FMCTX3-TX100**	Trex	3"	100 sq ft
FMCTX3-TX300**	Trex	3"	300 sq ft

\*\*Color KEY: Acorn (ESAC), Madeira (ACMD), Pewter (ESPW), Saddle (ACSD), Sahara (ESSH), Winchester Grey (ACWG), Woodland Brown (ACWB)

\* Based on a fastening pattern of 2 screws per joist, spaced every 16", into standard 6" wide decking



# TrimTop™

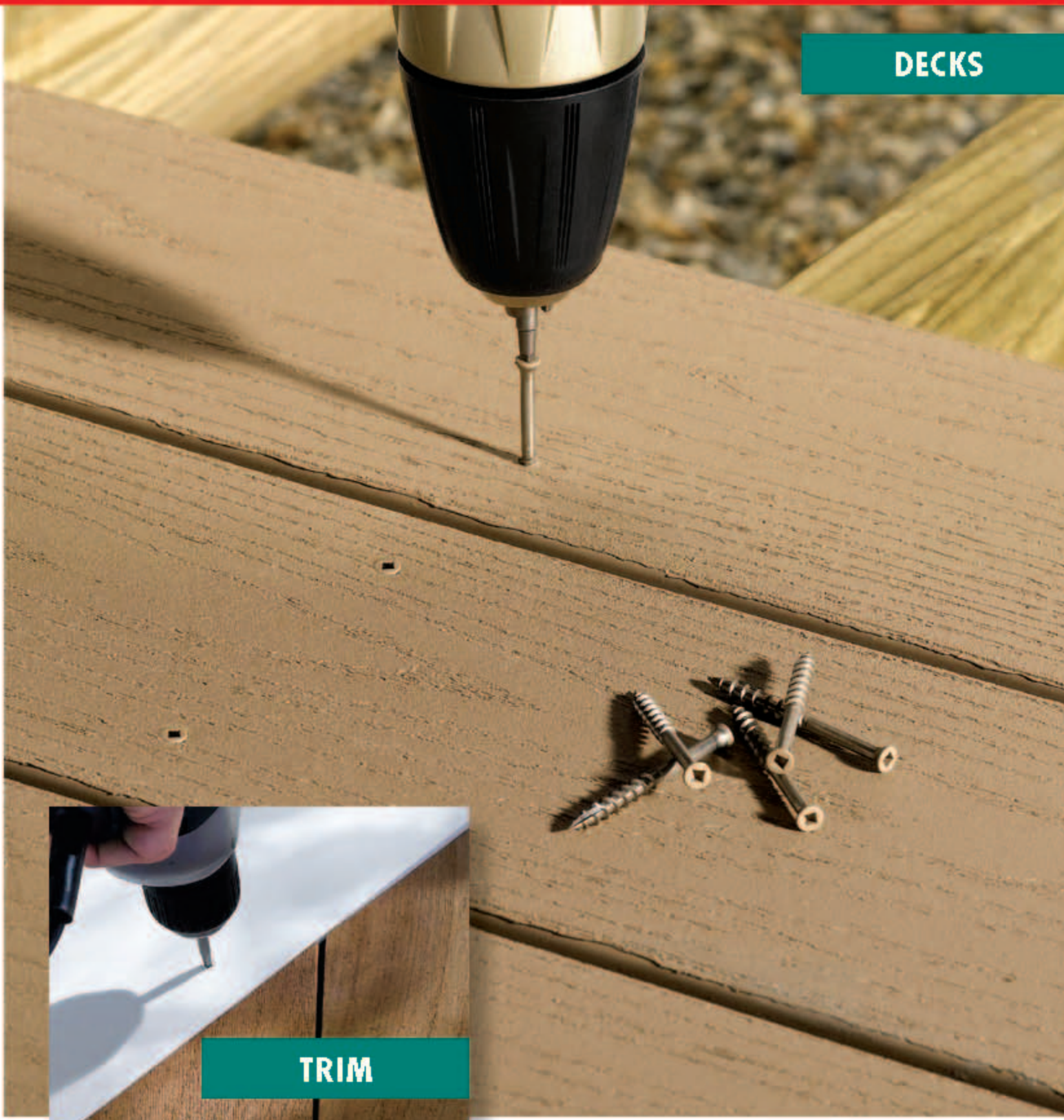
STAINLESS STEEL COATED TRIM SCREW

Stainless steel head painted trim screws. Color matched for AZEK® Deck, Trex Escapes®, mahogany decking and white trim.

- Sharp type 17 piercing point
- #8 gauge
- Deep square drive
- 305 Stainless offers guaranteed corrosion resistance
- Available in 75, 350 and 1050 piece packaging

No predrilling needed with cellular PVC decking or trim like AZEK or Trex Escapes.

DECKS



TRIM

AZEK Deck

- Acacia™
- Brownstone
- Clay
- Fawn™
- Kona™
- Morado™
- Redland Rose™
- Sedona™
- Slate Gray
- Tahoe™

Trex Escapes

- Acorn
- Pewter
- Sahara
- Mahogany
- White



# TrimTop™

STAINLESS STEEL COATED TRIM SCREW

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

- Install TrimTop using the enclosed square drive bit. Predrilling is typically not required for cellular PVC decking and trim, composite decking, and softer woods (cedar, PT).
- It is recommended to predrill when fastening within 1½" of end of any board.
- Predrilling and countersinking are required when fastening into hardwoods like Ipe and mahogany or fastening into frozen deck or joist boards. Use a ⅛" drill bit for the pilot hole with countersink.

**Warranty may become void if these installation instructions or those of the decking manufacturers/supplier are not followed.**

### GUARANTEED CORROSION RESISTANCE

TrimTop is guaranteed not to rust or cause streaking for the life of the project. For a full written warranty or technical assistance regarding proper use of this fastener, please contact FastenMaster Technical Support at 800-518-3569 or visit [www.FastenMaster.com](http://www.FastenMaster.com).

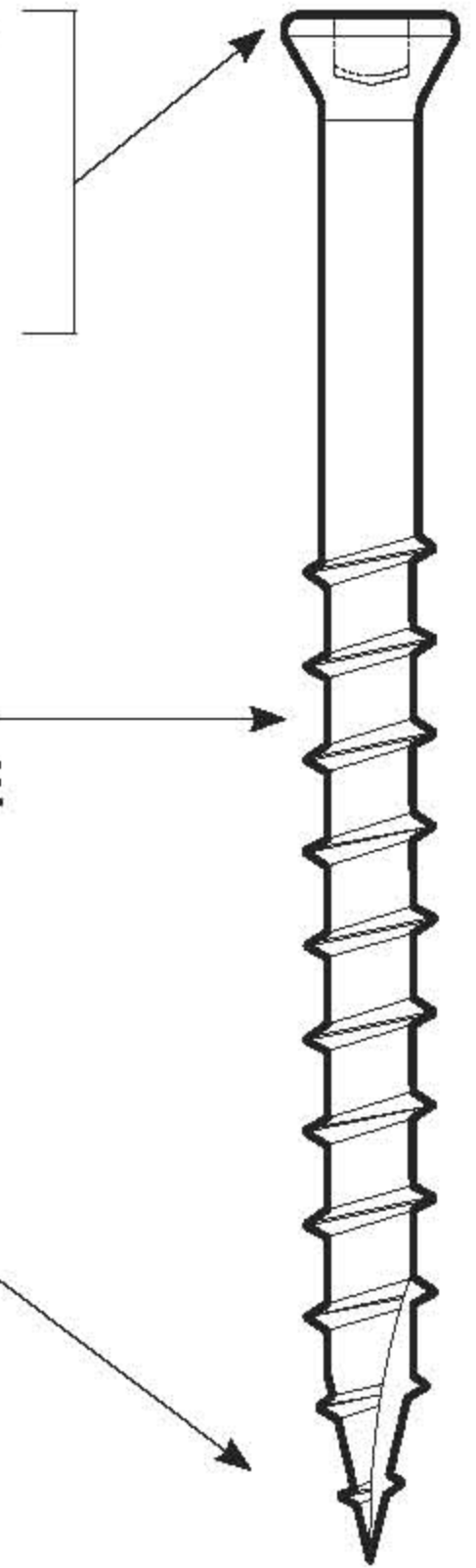
## PRODUCT FEATURES

DEEP #1 SQUARE DRIVE  
REDUCES CAM OUT

COLOR COATED TO  
MATCH DECKING

305 STAINLESS STEEL  
OFFERS GUARANTEED  
CORROSION RESISTANCE

SHARP TYPE 17  
PIERCING POINT FOR  
FAST INSTALLATION



Item #	Screw Length	Quantity per Box	Sq. Ft. of Deck Surface*
FMTT158-75**	1⅝"	75	20
FMTT002-75**	2"	75	20
FMTT212-75**	2½"	75	20
FMTT003-75**	3"	75	20
FMTT158-350**	1⅝"	350	100
FMTT002-350**	2"	350	100
FMTT212-350**	2½"	350	100
FMTT003-350**	3"	350	100
FMTT158-1050**	1⅝"	1050	300
FMTT002-1050**	2"	1050	300
FMTT212-1050**	2½"	1050	300
FMTT003-1050**	3"	1050	300

FMTTSHEET (0510)

\*Based on a fastening pattern of 2 screws per joist, spaced every 16", into standard 6" wide decking

\*\* Available Colors:

AZEK Deck — Acacia (AI), Brownstone (BS), Clay (CL), Fawn (FN), Kona (KA), Morado (MO), Redland Rose (RR), Sedona (SD), Slate Gray (SG), Tahoe (TH)

Trex Escapes — Pewter (PW), Sahara (SH), Acorn (AC)

White (WH) and Mahogany (MH)

**FastenMaster.**  
**Cortex**  
CONCEALED FASTENING SYSTEM

**Introducing the newest FastenMaster Cortex system engineered for PVC Trim!**

- Fast and Easy: No more caulking, sanding or painting
- Strong Connection: Cortex fasteners offer higher withdrawal values than nails
- Can be painted
- For use with AZEK®, Klear®, and Versatex® PVC trim in a smooth or grain finish
- Available in 250 and 750 lineal foot packages
- All Cortex fasteners, plugs and setting tools included in each package

Photographs should not be used as a reference for fastening patterns.

