

Type	Ease of use	Sheer strength	Holding power	Service life	Concerns	Best use
Stainless-steel screws	B	B	A-	40+yr.	Prone to stripped heads	ACQ, redwood and cedar, coastal areas
Plated construction screws	A-	B	A-	7-10 yr.	Coating compromised during driving	All-purpose, trimheads for furniture
Dipped galv. construction screws	B	B	A-	7-10 yr.	High torque requirements, staining	All-purpose, except cedar and redwood
Composite screws	B	B	B	7-10 yr.	Mushrooming, failure to countersink	Composite decking
Dipped galvanized lag screws	C	A	A	40+yr.	Highly visible, high torque, staining	Heavy timber unsuited for bolts
Dipped galvanized bolts	C	A	A	40+yr.	Highly visible, staining	Heavy timber and post-shrinkage tightening
Coated ring-shank nails	A	B	C	15+yr.	Dents, bent nails, removal	Trim, fascia, redwood and cedar
Dipped galvanized nails	A	B+	C	15+yr.	Dents, bent nails, removal, staining	Attaching decking to non-ACQ frame

A excellent    C fair  
B good