



Building Basics

While building a ramp, particularly when installing the plywood, any oddities in the modules will be highlighted and may cause delays if filing, chiseling, or even partial disassembly is required to correct the issue. However, most of these issues can be eliminated when the modules are built.

Creating and Marking a Module's "Good Side"

Whether you are assembling several modules using a jig in a TRP warehouse or building them on the ground at a client's home, it is important to pay attention and intentionally create a "good side" on each module. The following picture is an example of the "good side," where the structure boards will all contact the plywood on a smooth, solid surface.



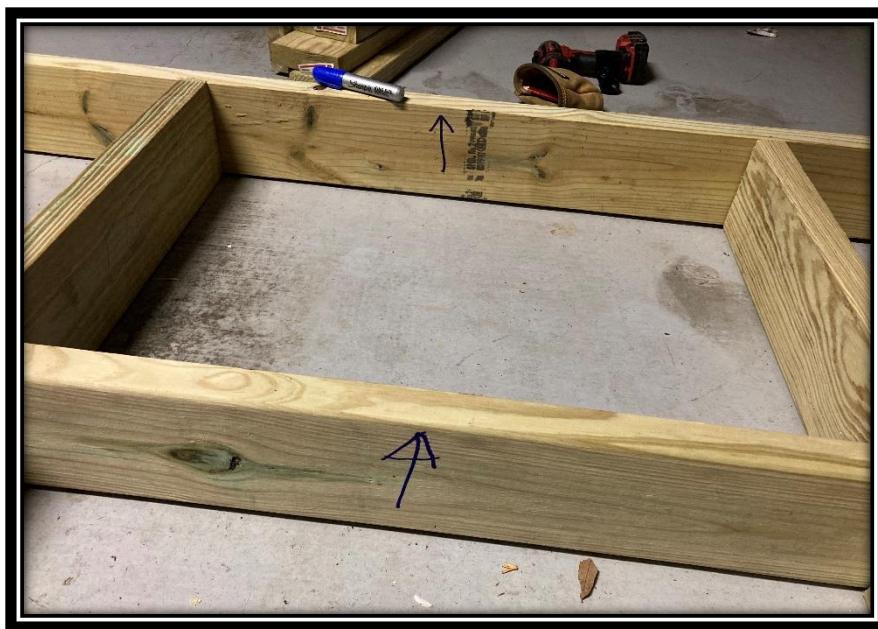
Good Side



How the other side of the joint looks.

It is surprising how different our “dimensional lumber” can be, particularly after it has been treated for ground contact. During module assembly, the builders should select a side and try to make all joints on the selected side of each module flush and not worry about the other side.

The next, very important step, is communicating this to the ramp build team by marking the “good side.” This is easily done with a big Sharpie on the inside surfaces, where it will be visible from either edge by those carrying the module into its final position on the ramp.



While it is most important to create the “good side”, marking it makes the ramp build task much easier. This can even apply when building modules on-site, as any given module may not be immediately installed.

Another tip

Sharpen both ends of your carpenter pencils so it is useful no matter which way it comes out of your tool bag. Then, if the lead breaks while in use, you can just flip it around and keep on marking.



Do you have other tips or suggestions to share?

There are a lot of very good ideas developed by ramp builders across the state. Please send any questions, comments or potential ramp construction topics to texasramps.roy@gmail.com to help others build ramps better, stronger and faster.