

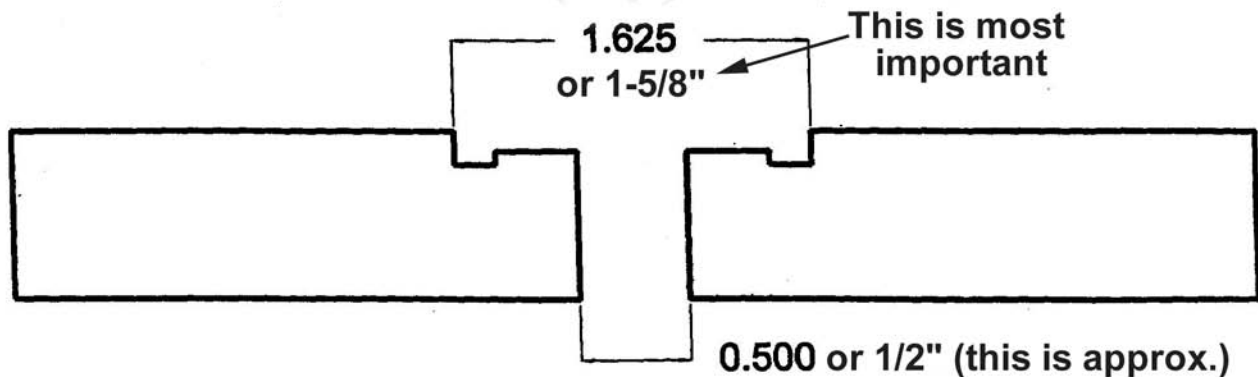


## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPACING BED WOOD BOARDS CORRECTLY

Sometimes a customer will call us saying that their bed wood is not wide enough--that it is spaced as far apart as it can go but the edge boards still need to be a little wider. Usually, it turns out that the problem is simply in the spacing of the boards.

When laying out (dry-fitting) the wood, make sure to leave **at least a 1/16" gap between the edge of the bed strip and the raised portion of the wood**. This is necessary to allow the wood to expand and contract as the humidity changes (wood is a living thing!). This also allows room for the finishing product, which tends to build up more in the groove.

Space the boards as shown below and it should completely fill the bed floor.



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## **PROTECT YOUR NEW BED WOOD WITH MAR-K EXHAUST HEAT SHIELDS**

Protect your wood bed from the heat of the exhaust pipes by installing a Mar-K exhaust heat shield available in stainless steel or electrogalvanized steel. One or two may be used depending on what exhaust system the truck may have. The heat shield protects the wood where the exhaust pipe or pipes bend up and over the rear axle housing and come close to the wood floor.

1. Place the exhaust heat shield directly over the pipe at the point where the pipe comes closest to the wood boards bottom surface. It may fit on one individual board or may need to fit onto two boards side by side. Place the heat shield with the open area pointing towards the front and rear of the truck so that air may flow under it between the wood and heat shield.
2. Mark the wood board or boards through the exhaust heat shields holes. Make sure that the hole locations are greater than 3/4" from the edge of any of the wood boards. Any closer than this and you may drill into a bed strip groove which will not be the full board thickness.
3. Drill at the marked locations with a 1/8" drill bit. The holes should not be more than 3/8" deep. Use a drill stop if necessary to prevent drilling completely through the wood board.
4. If using the electro-galvanized heat shields, paint them before installing. If using the stainless steel heat shields, remove the protective tape from the surface.
5. Install the heat shield with screws provided. As you install these screws, you may wish to seal the holes in the wood with a wood sealer or some water-tight sealer to prevent the wood from rotting.