

DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



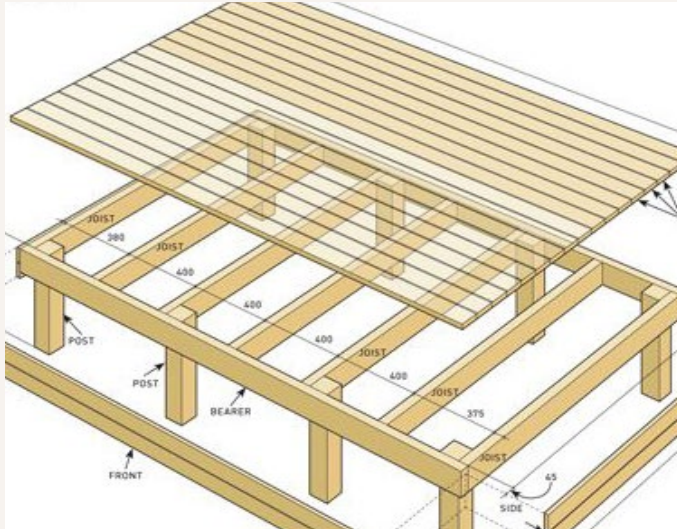
At South Pacific Timber we supply Vitex, Kwila, Garapa and Pine decking. When installing hardwood decking it is important to follow the below guidelines to ensure a quality and long lasting finish.

HANDLING AND INSTALLATION:

All decking should be kept dry before installation. Storage of decking on site should be in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight and elevated on bearers approximately 100mm from the ground.

SPAN:

The maximum suggested span for 19mm thick hardwood decking is for joists to be at 450mm centres.



DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

HANDLING AND INSTALLATION:

Board spacing should allow for air circulation, drainage and have consideration for seasonal movement. All timber will shrink as it dries and then swell as it takes on moisture. The degree to which this occurs will vary depending on timber species and site conditions, but it is mainly affected by the amount of ventilation provided. As a guide to allow for this movement, space boards as follows:

Board width	Kiln - dried spacing
65mm & 90mm	Min. 4mm
115mm, 140mm & 180mm	Min. 6mm

FASTENING

All decking boards should have two pre-drilled pilot holes per joist. Pilot holes should penetrate through the decking and not the radiata joist. For fastening 140x19mm decking, it is recommended to use 10gx-65mm stainless steel 316-grade decking screws. Pilot holes should be 15mm from the edge and ends. For fastening 65mm or 90x19mm decking, you should use 10gx50mm stainless steel 316-grade decking screws or 65mm annular grooved stainless steel 316-grade decking nails. If nailing, pilot holes should be 12mm from the board edge.

END SEALING

End checking and splitting can occur when decking boards are cut to length. After you crosscut the decking, re-sealing the cut ends with a suitable end-grain sealer is recommended. This is particularly important if the end-grain is left exposed and a picture-frame border design is not used.

VENTILATION AND DRAINAGE

Adequate ventilation of the deck is essential for long-term stability. Allowing air to circulate freely around the deck will reduce the moisture differential between the top and underneath the boards, minimising the likelihood of cupping and distortion following installation. See Figure 1. above. The deck should have at least 450mm of ground clearance for proper ventilation. Adequate drainage is also essential.

COATING

Decking can be coated on all four sides before delivery with exterior wood oil using Drydens CD50 Decking Oil. Any coating used should be tested first on a small sample to ensure compatibility, and always follow the manufacturer's application instructions.

DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

UNCOATED TIMBER

Maintenance of your hardwood deck will vary depending on the deck's location, construction, and many other factors like aspect, drainage, coating, profile and usage. The deck should be cleaned at least twice annually to remove debris, accumulated dirt and surface mould. A hard-bristled brush or low-pressure water blast will give the best results. Chemical cleaning products that can be effective, are also available.

COATED TIMBER

Maintenance is the same as for an uncoated deck, but also inspect the deck annually for signs of peeling-discolouration or excessive wear to the coating. At least annually or as the coating shows signs of wear, apply a fresh coat or two of the last product used, as per the manufacturer's application instructions.



Note: These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the New Zealand Building Code. When building a deck, please refer to the following standards: NZS3602, NZS3604, NZS3605, NZS3640 and NZS4203. Other recommended references include BRANZ Bulletin Issue 489 (Timber slat decks/balconies).