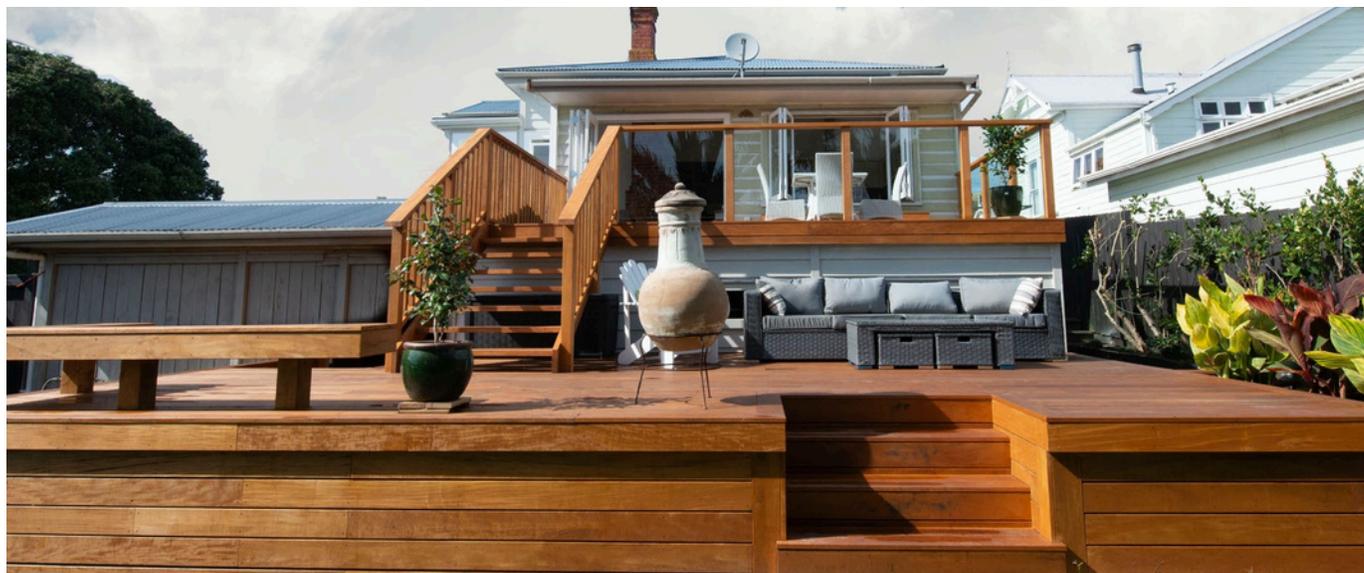


# DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



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

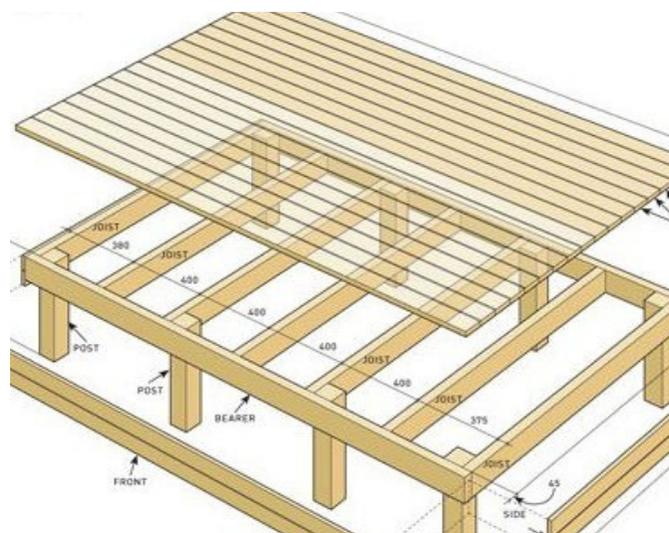
## HANDLING AND INSTALLATION:

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 joist span for **19mm thick** hardwood decking is **450mm**.

Thicker boards, including **25 × 140 mm** and **32 × 90 / 140 / 180 mm** boards, can be installed with a joist span of up to **600 mm**.



# 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 |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Kwila / Vitex</b> |                      |
| 65mm & 90mm          | Min. 4mm             |
| 115mm, 140mm & 180mm | Min. 6mm             |
| <b>Garapa</b>        |                      |
| 65mm & 90mm          | Min. 5mm             |
| 115mm, 140mm & 180mm | Min. 8mm             |

## FASTENING

All decking boards should have two pre-drilled pilot holes per joist. Pilot holes should penetrate through the decking but not the joist. For fastening, it is recommended to use 10g x 65mm stainless steel 316-grade decking screws. Pilot holes should be 15mm from the edge and ends.

## 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 an exterior penetrating decking oil. Any coating used should be tested on a small sample first to ensure compatibility, and the manufacturer's instructions should always be followed. We recommend oiling on all hardwood decking, but **strongly recommend** oiling Garapa

# 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).