



Decking Installation Checklist

To construct a successful residential timber deck and to gain optimal performance to maximise it's life span, Hurford Wholesale strongly recommend you adhere to the following three key areas;

1. Ensure the subfloor framing complies with NZ5 3605 (2011) (Timber Framed Buildings) design methods. Subfloor should have at least 450mm clearance from the ground.
2. Adequate spacing between boards provides for possible expansion and also caters for ventilation:
 - **Decking boards up to 90mm wide must have a minimum gap of 5mm for kiln dried and 2mm for air dried decking between boards.**
 - **Decking boards wider than 90mm must have a minimum of 8mm for kiln dried and 4mm for air dried decking between boards.**
3. Use durable decking screws (meeting Corrosion Resistant Class 3) or stainless steel screws grade 304 for general use or grade 316 for applications that are subject to salt water or chlorine. For decking boards 19 or 20mm thick, a screw length of 65mm is sufficient into timber joists. Fixing placement for 90mm boards is 12mm from edge for 140mm boards 15mm from edge.

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Finishing after installation:

It is extremely important that your deck is given a thorough clean that ensures all iron, steel and metal pieces, filings and micro particles are completely removed.

Metals can react with the tannins in the timber and moisture, which will leave unsightly black stains on the decking that are difficult to remove.

If staining occurs, use a timber deck cleaning solution or Oxalic Acid (mixed at the appropriate proportions for use with timber) and scrub to remove the stain. Once cleaning is completed, rinse the deck thoroughly with fresh water.

Heavy staining and stains that have been left for some time, may require the deck to be sanded to remove.

Other important points to adhere to:

- All decking stored on site prior to installation should be kept in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight and on bearers at least 100mm off the ground.
- Provide sufficient ventilation and drainage beneath the timber deck, especially for installations close to the ground. Water must be able to drain away quickly from the ground surface to prevent the possibility of soil moisture affecting the deck.
- Boards are to span at least two joists. For joists at 450mm centres the minimum board length is 900mm.
- Boards need to be cut to ensure butt joining over joists.

- Prior to planning we recommend you contact your local council to find out if your deck requires planning approval and to follow the necessary steps to comply.
- Allowing air to freely circulate around the deck will reduce moisture differential between the top and bottom of the boards minimising cupping or movement after installation.

Decks adjacent to swimming pools or near the sea

With decks installed adjacent to swimming pools or where sea air contains salt, special care is needed with the fixings to prevent corrosion. Within one metre of swimming pools, stainless steel fixings are recommended. It should also be noted that some local authorities require stainless steel fixings within a certain distance of the coast.

Safety checks

Checks should be made at least annually as to the condition of the deck, deck structure and fixings. There can also be movement of board fixings and boards within the deck at any time and more often with a change in season. Therefore regular routine checks of the decking are also recommended. Any protruding screws should be attended to when observed, as should any damaged boards. In addition to this, the structure particularly with elevated decks should be checked for soundness and that fixings are not corroding. Ventilation beneath the deck also needs to be checked and reinstated when necessary.



For further installation details refer to the relevant New Zealand Standards.
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