

Tools Required

PPE

We recommend wearing long sleeves and gloves when handling composite material. When cutting the boards, you will need:

- Protective eye-wear
- Protective Masks
- Ear defenders



Measuring and preparing

Whilst cutting and securing the boards, a few different tools may be used. The tools we recommend for this are:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- String
- Stanley knife
- Spirit level



General Tools

When preparing your project, we recommend using various tools in order to complete your project, these are:

- Power drill
- Screwdriver
- Jigsaw/ Handsaw



Starting Guide

Many homeowners are opting for composite decking due to its durability and low maintenance of care. Resistant to rot and splintering, it requires no staining or sealing. With various styles available, it mimics wood whilst being eco-friendly. To ensure the longevity of your decking, we recommend following our installation guide.

1. Post Delivery:

- Unpack your decking boards 48 hours before installation.
- Place your boards in your desired location to allow your boards to adapt to environmental conditions.
- Store your boards on a flat surface in your desired location to prevent warping.



2. Preparing the area:

- Prepare your tools and materials.
- Map out the installation area using a tape measure for accurate dimensions.
- Mark the space with pegs and string.
- Remove any grass or debris for a clear, even surface for the sub-frame.
- Use a spirit level or laser level to ensure the surface is flat.



3. Inserting the weed membrane:

- Lay your weed membrane on the ground, cutting as needed for postinstallation.
- Remove 50–100mm of topsoil to prevent weeds from growing through the decking, which can cause damage and drainage issues.
- Consider adding gravel to improve drainage.
- For best results, use a non-woven weed membrane for greater strength, durability, and drainage.



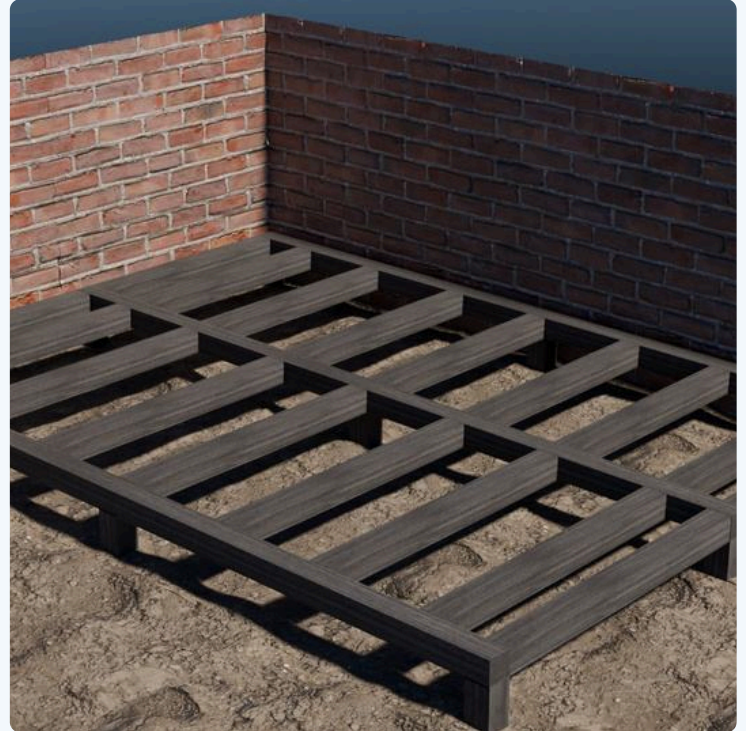
4. Installing the posts:

- Dig 700mm deep holes for your posts, spaced 1.5m apart.
- Cut the posts to your desired size.
- Ensure a slight 2.5% gradient for surface runoff away from your property to set the sub-frame's slope.
- Once the posts are in place, mix and pour concrete into the holes, ensuring the posts remain vertical.
- To ensure that water doesn't pool at the base of the post, use the concrete to create a slope from the post.



5. Creating a sub-frame:

- Use joists connected with joist hangers, opting for treated timber or composite for longevity.
- Start by connecting the outside frame of the joists.
- Connect your joists to run in the opposite direction to the decking boards.



6. Adding Support to your frame:

- Use a grid formation for landings and noggins to complete the frame.
- Drill joist hangers into the outer frame to connect the landings, using galvanized screws for structural integrity.
- Add noggins to the sub-frame for long-term support and stiffness.
- For maximum stability, place the noggins next to the post.



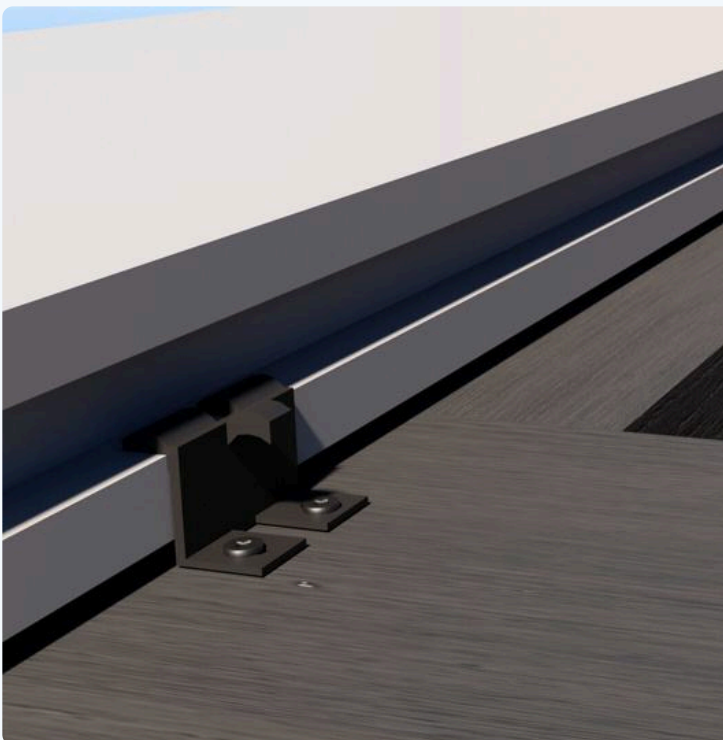
7. Laying your decking boards:

- Once the sub-frame is complete, begin laying your composite decking boards.
- Secure your starter clips to the joist edge in line to where your first board will be placed, ensuring this is leaving an expansion gap of 250mm from any fixed object.
- Once the first boards are secured, install 3mm hidden fasteners by slotting the clips into the grooves.
- Secure the clips to your joists and repeat the process until you reach the end board, ensuring a 3mm gap is maintained along side to side of the boards and a 6mm gap is created where any boards meet end to end.
- To ensure the boards are correctly secured to a hidden fastener, use a rubber mallet to secure them into place.



8. Securing the last boards using hidden fasteners:

- To secure the final board, screw through its groove at a 45-degree angle into the joist at 300mm intervals.
- Pre-drill pilot holes 2-4mm wider than the screw shank to prevent splitting.
- For obstacles like manholes, drain pipes, or posts, use a jigsaw, allowing for expansion gaps for a neat finish.



9. Finishing your project:

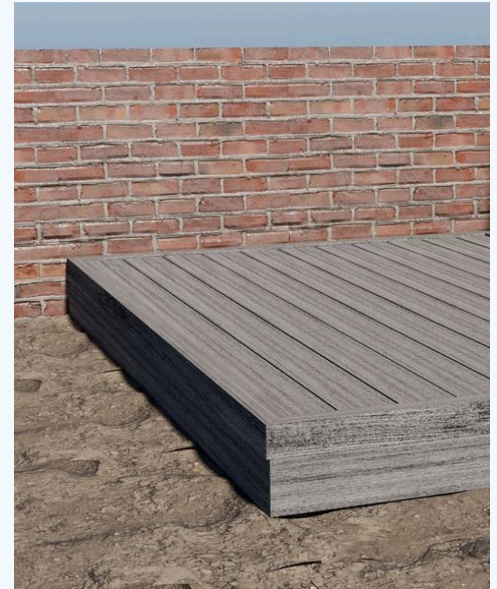
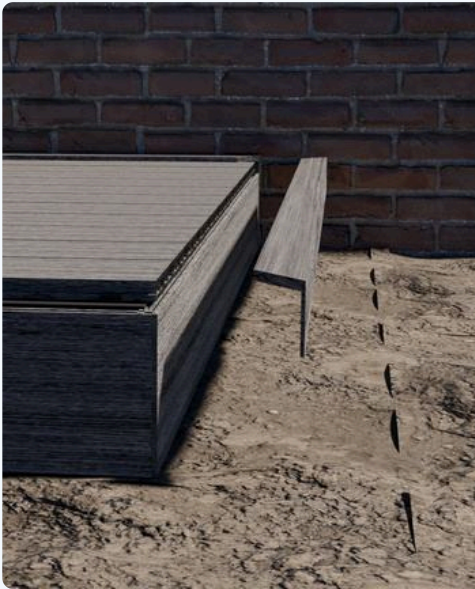
- L-Shape Corner Trims:

Leave a gap at the ends when installing fascia and angled corner trims to allow for expansion.

Install angle trims using commercial-grade adhesive or secure with suitable screws.

When using adhesive, sand down the trim on the inside edge and apply an adhesive to the inside edge to allow the trim to stick to the decking edge.

Drill pilot holes 2-4mm wider than the screw shank at 300mm intervals, screwing into the timber or composite joists at a 90-degree angle.



- Bullnose Boards:

Bullnose boards are the first boards to be fitted into place.

Fit a bullnose board by adding starter clips to the designated locations on the bottom.

Slide the bullnose board into place and push forward to secure it with the clip, ready for the next board.

Adjust the spacing of starter clips to achieve an overhang or flush finish.

To fit bullnose boards onto steps, start from the bottom step and place the bullnose boards into position.

Important: Things to consider during installation:

- Ensure that the boards are installed with a 3mm expansion gap side to side to allow for expansion
- Make sure that any decking boards joining end to end have a 6mm expansion gap, have double joists underneath and use a clip to secure each end of the decking boards.
- Ensure to leave a 20mm expansion gap from any fixed object such to reduce the risk of the boards cracking.
- We recommend installing your decking boards in warmer weather as this is when the boards have expanded the most
- When securing the clips ensure not to over tighten or force as this could damage the boards



9. Finishing your project:

- Installing using decking risers:

Select a pedestal that is suitable for your project.

Clear your area of debris to allow room

Place your pedestals evenly to allow for a strong structure making sure to leave a 2.5% gradient away from the property to allow for drainage

Place your frame onto the pedestals ready for your boards to be secured

Repeat the steps mentioned previously to secure your boards to your joists.



Helpful Tip

- Using decking spacers where the boards meet end to end will allow you to achieve the same expansion gap every time and allow your decking to look more uniform.

