



**SQUAREDEAL
BUILDING SUPPLIES LTD.**

Decking Installation Guide

Before Starting

Ensure that all decking boards are opened and allow them to settle in the climate for at least 48 hours. Ensure they are stored on a flat surface, covered and supported suitably so that they do not fall over or collapse.

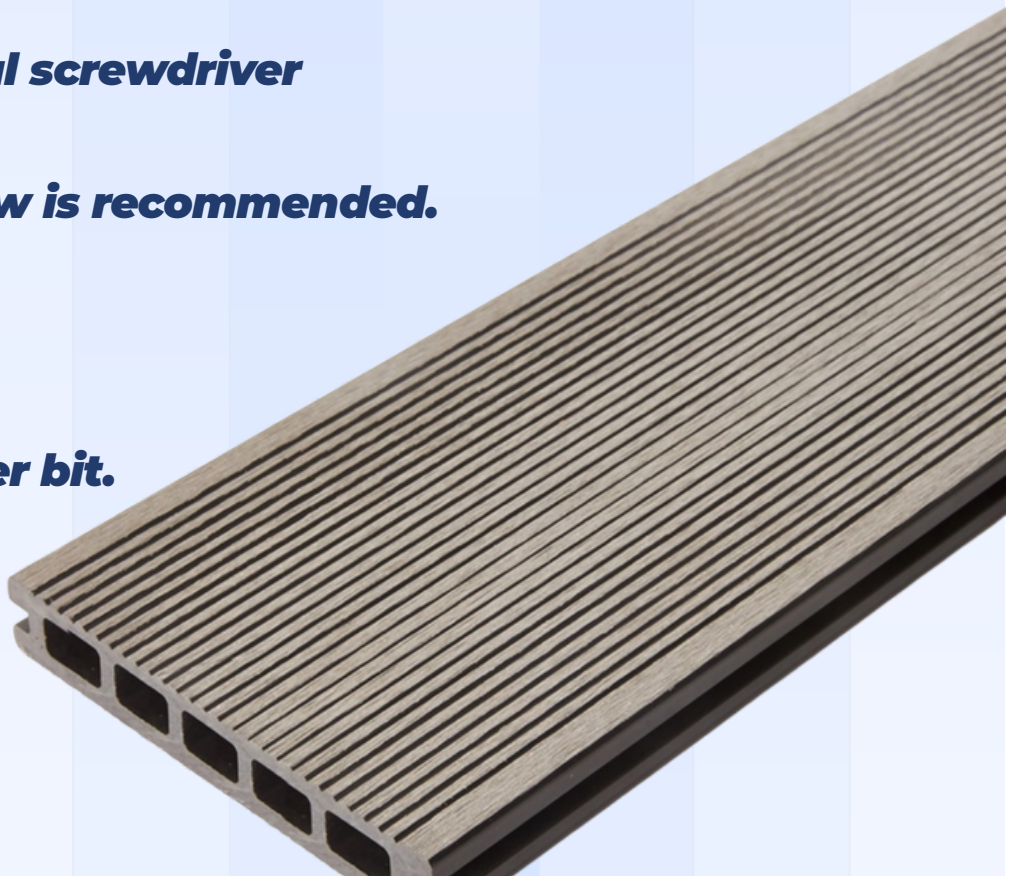
A regular error is incorrect measuring or not creating a suitably detailed plan, leading to a shortage of materials to complete the project. It is always worth double checking your calculation to ensure you have enough boards, specialise panels, trims and fixings.

It is also recommended that you add at least 5% wastage to your calculation or measurements and at least 15% extra for diagonal areas or complex and unique designs due to the higher risk of wastage.

Take care when handling boards, as they can be heavy and awkward to lift. Carrying them on its edge and picking up and placing down rather than sliding and dumping should reduce the risk of damage or injury.

Tools required:

- **Spirit level**
- **Power mitre saw**
- **Tape measure**
- **Electric or manual screwdriver**
- **Power drill,**
- **Rubber mallet**
- **A power mitre saw is recommended.**
- **Dust mask,**
- **Safety glasses**
- **Knee pads**
- **Hand saw**
- **Jigsaw**
- **A long screwdriver bit.**





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3 Key Points

Expansion

Due to varying temperatures and weather conditions across the UK, it is important to allow up to 48 hours for the composite decking boards to climatise in your location.

Composite decking can expand and shrink from summer to winter as it cools and heats up. This is due to the thermal expansion and contraction that composite decking experiences as part of this composite product.

To allow for movement throughout the year, the correct spacing must be provided and is aided by the fixings provided with our decking panels.

Water Drainage

Decking should have a suitable slope built in during construction. If you are installing a raised deck a gradient of 2.5% and by a minimum of 300mm is recommended.

This will ensure water drains off the deck easily. However, if you do decide to complete a ground level deck it's important to allow for a slope – please check this during installation.

Always be aware of ensuring there is a slope otherwise this can cause standing water and potential to rot any timbers that are used in the base structure, unless you have used the composite struts available.

Good Airflow

Don't forget the gaps, a 25mm expansion gap should be left between the deck and any walls or fixed objects, 3mm gap side to side of all deck boards and a 6-8mm gap on any joint butt (8-10mm gap left below 10 degree) with a 6mm gap left at the end of the boards or meeting a fascia or trim angle. Check this with the manufacturer's installation guides



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Composite decking can be installed on a timber frame or composite frame. If using timber joist for composite decking please ensure you use appropriate pressure treated timber.

When using composite joists for ground level we recommend 50mm x 50mm structure.

For raised decks, we recommend 4 x 2 timber or composite joists to ensure structure integrity.

(You should always check the structure strength with a professional to ensure it meets required specifications)

Step 1

To ensure a solid frame for your decking, posts should be cemented 500mm into the ground. Nogging and blocking to prevent rolling of outer joists and use Joist hangers for added support. Decking joists must be placed no more than 300mm to support the decking. Commercial project joist centre must be 200mm.

Step 2

Ensure the Gradient runs away from any buildings or fixed objects Ensure 3mm gap side to side, this must be checked during installation.

Start clips are required to be used, placing them every 30cm to 300mm along your first joists, using a rubber mallet to tap into place.

Once your first board is in position using your starter clips, you will then need to use metal spacer clip or plastic spacer clips.

Make sure that the composite decking boards do not overhang the joists by more than 15mm.

Step 3

Spacer clips should be connected every 300mm along the decking boards.

Step 4

Once all clips in place simply present your next board and push into place. When levelling the joists, it is important to keep the butt joists at the same height, (remember to leave at least 6mm end to end where two boards meet) and use 2 hidden metal fixing clips on each side of your composite decking on the double joist if necessary.



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Step 5

When the last board is in place (only when metal spacer clips are being used), secure all other boards by screwing the groove of the last board at a 45 degree angle, securing it to the joist at 300mm intervals. To avoid the material splitting, we recommend pre-drilling pilot holes in the deck boards 2-4mm wider than the width of the screw shank.

Step 6

If installing a Balustrade or railing post, ensure you leave a 6mm gap for thermal expansion.

We recommend corner trims with hollow composite decking for a neat and clear finish Bullnose boards allows you to create a flush finish without adding a fascia or an angled corner trim. It is important to remember a double joist will be required and these must be installed first.

To fit a bullnose board simply add starter clips into the designated location on the bottom of the board. Then slide the bullnose board into place and push forward to secure into place with the clip ready for the next board to be laid. You can adjust the spacing of your starter clips to achieve an overhang or flush finish.

To fit our decking onto steps, bullnose boards can be used. Add the decking starting from the bottom step, then place your bullnose boards into place.

Final Note

Once you have installed your new composite decking, please be aware that this is low maintenance and not NO maintenance.

Please ensure that you regularly clean it with hot soapy water and a soft brush. This will extend the lifespan of your decking and keep it in good condition, free from debris, dirt leaves and other residue.

All composite decking may naturally fade over time with a reduction in colour, this is due to weather conditions and the UV exposure.

Ensure you take this into consideration when choosing the colour of your new composite decking. As with almost all materials that are left to nature's elements, your composite decking may lighten in appearance within the first 2-12 weeks (depending on UV exposure) after which, the colour will stabilise to its natural colour losing minimal amount of colour over the composite decking life-span.