

Decking care and maintenance

Oil based preservatives are recommended to be applied to all surfaces including ends (ensuring that manufacturer's instructions are followed) prior to installation. This reduces the amount of moisture penetration during the life of the deck. A second coat is recommended to be applied to the exposed surfaces after installation. Decks can be left to weather naturally but it must be understood that moisture intake of the timber will be higher and decking may be subject to checking and cracking.

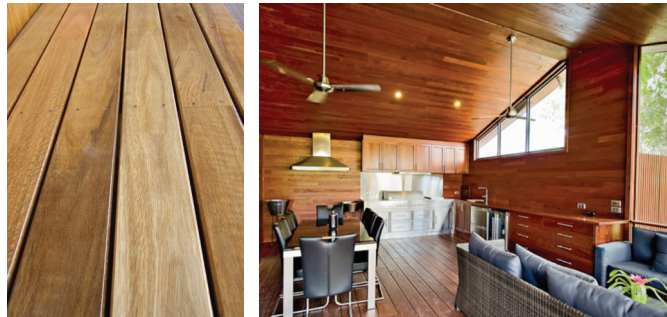
- Inspect a hardwood timber deck at least annually to ensure that it is in good condition.
- Replace or resecure loose or damaged boards and protruding nails or screws.
- To clean the deck, sweep off any loose dirt or garden residue and then clean the deck with a specialised deck cleaning product.
- Once cleaned, lightly sand and reseal the deck with a stain, oil, paint or varnish, depending on aesthetic preference.

After a new timber deck has been built, or an existing deck repaired, it must be thoroughly swept and cleaned to remove metal filings from drilling, nailing or other construction that may cause black spots. If the deck has turned grey from natural weathering or is discoloured due to metal filings or other construction materials, there is a large range of maintenance and cleaning products on the market which may help bring it back to its natural beauty. Use with care and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Helpful web sites

Timber and Building Materials Association	Queensland and NSW association of timber merchants	http://www.tabma.com.au/documents/TABMA%20Technical%20Note%204%20-%20Timber%20Deck%20Fixing%20Guide.pdf
Timber Merchants Association	Victorian association of timber merchants	http://www.timber.asn.au/timberadvice/decking
Bushfire Timbers and construction	Wood Products Victoria Timber Development Association of NSW	www.wpv.org.au/bushfires.htm http://www.timber.net.au/bushfire/
Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation	Need help with your coatings look here	www.apmf.asn.au

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Solid Timber Decking Installation Instructions

Spotted Gum • Red Gum • Tassie Oak • Vic Ash



A Guide for tradesmen
 and DIY builders

www.ryanandmcnulty.com.au

Introduction

A hardwood timber deck adds value to a home because of its durability, look and finish. Ryan and McNulty decking is carefully and ethically sourced from sustainably managed Australian forests ensuring their future. Perfect for use in pergolas and verandahs, timber decking is also ideal as a safe surround for swimming pools. Ryan and McNulty timber decking is available in hardwood species River Red Gum 85 x 19 and Spotted Gum 86 x 19 and 135x 19. Ryan and McNulty hardwood decking is seasoned to the moisture requirements of Australian Standard AS2796 of 10% to 18%. Please note that tongue and groove flooring used for interior purposes must not be used for weather exposed decks.

This instruction guide outlines the recommended method of installing timber decking over bearers and joists. Construction of the sub frame including post sizes, stress grades of members including bearers and joists, spans of members and any other structural elements relevant to building a deck must conform with Australian Standards AS1684: Residential Timber-Framed Construction and AS1720: Timber Structures - Design Methods. All building codes and Australian Standards need to be adhered to when building a deck. This installation guide does not apply to speciality applications or commercial decking. For specification and design of commercial or industrial applications refer to Australian Standards AS1170: Dead and Live Loads and Load Combinations. Building a deck in bush-fire prone areas may also require adherence to Australian Standard AS3959: Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas.

INSTALLERS ARE ADVISED TO CHECK WITH THE LOCAL COUNCIL ABOUT RELEVANT REGULATIONS.

Before Installation

Plan to leave a sufficient gap to allow the decking to expand and contract during seasonal variation. 135 mm wide boards will expand approximately 0.5 mm for every 1% increase in its moisture content. During the winter the increase in moisture content can be 4-6% so each board could expand 2-3 mm. Ryan and McNulty recommend gaps for 85mm and 86 mm decking should be 4-6 mm and for 135 mm decking, 7-9 mm should be allowed. A spacer of the required thickness such as a length of Masonite® or plywood will assist during installation.

All decks must have good sub deck and cross flow ventilation. Solid perimeter walls should be avoided as a damp sub deck will cause the bottom of the boards to take up moisture and cup. If there are solid perimeter walls, then specially designed vents are available.

Installing a membrane over the top of the joists and under the decking keeps them dry and limits the chance of rotting and gives a better fixing for screws and nails. Custom U shaped products such as Malthoid are readily available.

Installation

Always use properly designed decking nails and screws. They should be hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel if near salt water such as the sea or a salt chlorinated swimming pool. For 19 mm decking the nails should be at least 65 mm long. For decking screws, a minimum of 10 gauge is recommended for softwood joists. For 135 mm wide boards, 14 gauge is recommended. To facilitate the decking screws, a pilot or countersink hole, 80% of the nail diameter should first be drilled. This will reduce stresses during seasonal movement changes in the deck and should limit the chances of boards cracking and splitting. If using decking nails, ensure the board ends are pre-drilled to avoid splitting. Nails must be driven flush with surface (not punched). Each board should be nailed to each joist with two nails as required by Australian Standard AS1684 for required fixings for domestic

decking. Alternatively, proprietary fixing systems may be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

The deck frame joist span recommendations are:

- Residential Installation
 - a 450mm centre to centre joist span
- Commercial Installation
 - a 300mm centre to centre joist span
- 45° Angle Installation
 - 300mm centre to centre joist span

Starting closest to the building or chosen edge of the deck, fix the first line of decking taking care that it is fixed parallel to the building. Using gap spacers to set the thickness of the gap along the length of the deck; fix the next half meter depth of boards and then check for parallel and adjust if necessary. Continue this process until the deck is fully laid.

Generally speaking, the two nails in a board at any joist should not form a single line with the nails in the other boards on that joist. It is best to stagger the nails so that there are two lines of nails along the joist. This lessens the chance of a single line of nails creating (over time) a split in the top surface of the joist. Each of the two nails in a board should be driven at an opposing angle to increase the holding capacity of the nails. In most decks there will be some butt joints. Care should be taken to ensure these butt joints are randomly spaced to avoid butt joints in adjacent boards being next to each other.