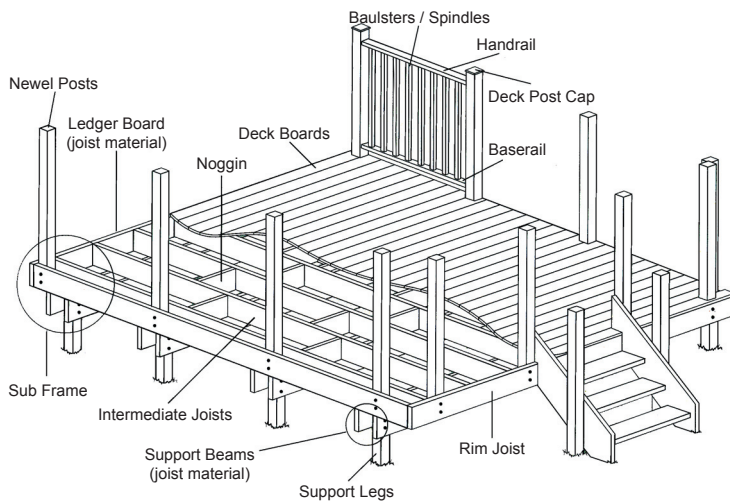


Installation Sheet 3 Decking



1 - PLANNING

When planning your deck, allow a little time to work out its best location and its most suitable features.

How will it be used? For barbecues, entertaining or simply relaxing? Do you require room for chairs, a picnic table or even a hot-tub? How many people will it cater for? Is it going to be in the sun or the shade and will you need lighting for evening use? Do you require privacy or will the deck feature a scenic view? Is the deck to be linked to your home - through a dining room or the kitchen - or will it be free standing in a separate area of the garden? Will the deck have railings or steps? Is the deck to be on level ground or a sloping site?

Once you have made these considerations you can then start to design your deck.

2 - LEVEL THE SITE

Mark out the area to be occupied by your deck with wooden pegs and string. This will help you to visualise the size of the finished deck and serve as a guide for preparing the site. If the site you have chosen is lawned, it is recommended that the turfs are removed. Make sure that the site is level.

TIP - If your site is on bare earth you can prevent the growth of unwanted vegetation under your deck by covering bare ground with plastic sheeting followed by gravel.

3 - CREATE THE FRAME

The framework is made up from joists. The joists should be fixed 400mm apart at centres. Noggins (sections of joist material) can also be fixed to add support to your deck. They will help keep the framework rigid and provide fixing points for your deck boards. If you intend laying the frame directly on the ground, we suggest using concrete pads at each corner and at regular intervals to create a firm base.

4 - FIXING THE FRAME AND NEWEL POSTS

If the deck is in any way to be raised off the ground i.e. to cope with uneven or sloping ground or for a split level deck, support legs first need to be concreted into the ground.

At least 600mm of the support legs will need to be set into the concrete and then the concrete allowed to harden. We suggest that the legs are positioned no more than 1800mm apart to maintain strength. To create the frame the joists should be fixed with galvanised bolts to the support legs, ensuring they are level. Although as suggested the support legs are no more than 1800mm apart, plan where you intend placing your newels before fixing the support legs. Do not forget the support legs do not necessarily need to be in the corners of the frame, especially if you intend fixing newel posts in the corners.

It is important to plan your deck layout first. Once the framework is in place, it is time to fix the newel posts by bolting to the inner side of the joists.

TIP - All cut surfaces and drilled holes must be brushed with end grain preservative.

5 - FIXING THE DECK BOARDS

Treated deck boards are available in a choice of sizes and having reversible faces, either smooth or grooved can be used, or even a combination of the two.

Cut your deck boards to length if necessary, treating all the cut ends with end grain preservative. Place the first board flush with the face of the joist at the front of the deck. Pre-drill three holes to the face of the board and fix the board with galvanised screws.

TIP - It is recommended that 3 screws on each joist support be fixed along the length of the board.

Depending on the location of your newel posts, the deck boards may need to be cut to fit around the posts. Install the remaining boards in the same way, leaving a small expansion gap of approximately 6mm between the boards.

If a deck clip system is being used, please follow the manufacturer's instructions. A variety of styles can be achieved, so plan ahead when designing the frame e.g. double joists will be needed for the chevron style. If newel posts are being used, these will be required at each corner and at a maximum of 1200mm intervals on straight sections.

6 - FITTING RAILS TO YOUR DECK

The option to further enhance your deck with rails and spindles is also possible with our range of components. The newel posts have been positioned and fixed prior to the deck boards being fitted. The handrails and base rails should be cut to length to fit between the posts. Fix the spindles with a maximum gap of 100mm between each one, into the hand and base rail.

Secure the spacers into the groove between the spindles. We suggest for ease, unless you are skilled, that you fix the spindles into the hand and base rails as a 'panel' to be slotted between the posts once the spindles are secure. We suggest that spindles are screwed or nailed into place and that the packing spacers are pinned into position. Repeat for other sections as required.

Finally, all that remains is the fitting of handrails, baserails, packing spacers, spindles and newel caps to complete the finished look of your deck.

7 - AFTERCARE

All our pre-treated deck components are low maintenance material. No further preservative treatment is necessary. You may wish to add colour to your deck with a wood stain or paint. In time the green-brown colour of the freshly treated wood will fade to an attractive pale, sunbleached hue. However it is recommended that the exposed surfaces of your garden deck are given a coat of clear water sealant every few years to provide a water repellent protection to the treated timber. Also available is Antislip, for flat profile decking boards to provide a fine aggregate texture to the boards to help resist slipping in wet weather and also protect against mould growth on the decking surface.

