

HOW TO BUILD YOUR TIMBER DECK

An easy step by step guide

STEP 1

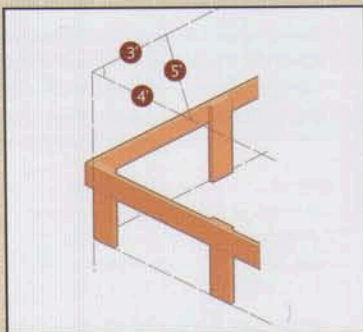
BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

- Check the depth and position of any underground pipes, cables or services under the proposed deck and allow access to any manhole covers or inspection chambers.
- Consider the size and use of the deck. If it is to be used for dining, there needs to be plenty of room for tables and chairs.
- Decking products are designed to be used on decks up to 600mm high. An elevated deck needs to be designed so that it is capable of taking the expected loading. If in doubt, seek professional advice.
- Consult a structural engineer or builder for high level decks over 600mm.
- Check with your local Planning Office as to whether planning permission is required for your proposed deck. In most cases planning permission is not required for domestic decks unless the deck is within 20 metres of a road or exceeds 3 metres in height above ground level. If for non-domestic use, such as a hotel or pub, it is advisable to check with your local Planning Office.

STEP 2

BUILDING THE SUBFRAME

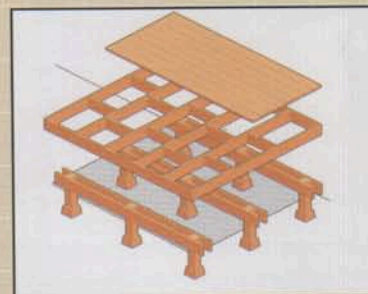
- Check there are no drainage problems in the area where you plan to build your deck. The deck design must maximise airflow through and around the construction to ensure good ventilation.
- Mark out the site accurately and ensure it is square following the diagram below.



- Decks can be free standing or attached to the side of a house. When attached to a house the finished deck level must be at least two brick courses below the damp proof course. If this is not practical, a gap must be left between the house and the deck to aid drainage. A ledger board is bolted to the wall and used to carry and support the joists. This

can be done by using a 47 x 150mm Timber joist. The ledger board must be 10mm from the wall to ensure sufficient drainage.

- Do not lay ground level decks directly onto grass. Remove all turf and cover the ground with permeable membrane or polythene (with holes pierced) and then gravel to prevent any weeds growing. Lay the framing on concrete paving slabs bedded into position or on an existing level concrete area.
- For elevated decks 100 x 100 x 1200mm Timber structural posts should be used, positioned no more than 1800mm apart. At least half the length of the post should be sunk into the ground and fixed with concrete.



- Beams are attached to the posts using 150mm landscape screws and the joist frame is fixed to the beams by skew nailing or screwing.
- The frame is constructed from 47 x 150mm joist timbers.
- Joists should be fixed at 400mm centres for maximum support, using 100mm landscape screws, galvanised nails or joist hangers.
- Noggins (offcuts of joist) are used to prevent the joists from twisting or buckling. These are attached at 90° to the joist in a staggered manner at 1200mm centres.