

When installing Hardwood decking, it is important to check the installation area before determining the best practices required for installation.

Below are a number of factors that customers need to consider when installing decking boards.

- Timber naturally absorbs and releases moisture depending on its environment, therefore timber performs at its best when installed in covered, dry and moisture-consistent areas.
- Ventilation is very important when installing a deck. We recommend Hardwood decking boards be installed 400mm above ground, and that adequate ventilation be provided both above and below the decks. Insufficient ventilation typically leads to warping and other timber irregularities. Where possible, access to be made available to support the maintenance of the timber deck
- In an extreme risk area, when decking is installed closer than 400mm to the ground, We recommend to use narrower decking 70mm or 90mm width
- Harsh or extreme weather environments can also negatively influence a timber deck. Extreme conditions include but are not limited to excessive rain, hot sun and significant winds.
- Due to it's nature, these extreme environments will almost always cause timber to expand, contract and potentially cup/warp. We suggests that 70-90mm decking be used in wet and close to ground applications.
- Before the installation of the decking boards, we recommend all sides of the board be coated and sealed with an oil-based protectant. In addition to this, end sealing is also required.
- Residential joist span to be 450mm centre to centre and 3-5mm gap between boards for decking boards.
- Cutting and shaving metal objects on a timber deck be avoided as this will often result in black spotting.

For Extreme Conditions We does not recommend that our Hardwood timber boards be placed below 400mm from the ground or in extreme conditions as previously mentioned, but there are a number of practices you can use to assist the timber's performance in this application:

- Species selection is crucial in ensuring performance of your timber deck, i.e Merbau is one of the most stable timber in the market or choose Composite Decking instead.
- Ensure excellent drainage to prevent water/moisture from pooling.
- The use of a plastic membrane (builder's plastic) on the surface below the deck to assist drainage and prevent the pooling of moisture.
- Ensure an 8mm gap is used between boards for residential decks installed less than 400mm above ground.

- Seal all sides of the decking boards using decking oil prior installation
- Use of narrow decking boards only in low to ground and extreme situations - 70mm -90mm wide decking boards or COMPOSITE DECKING.