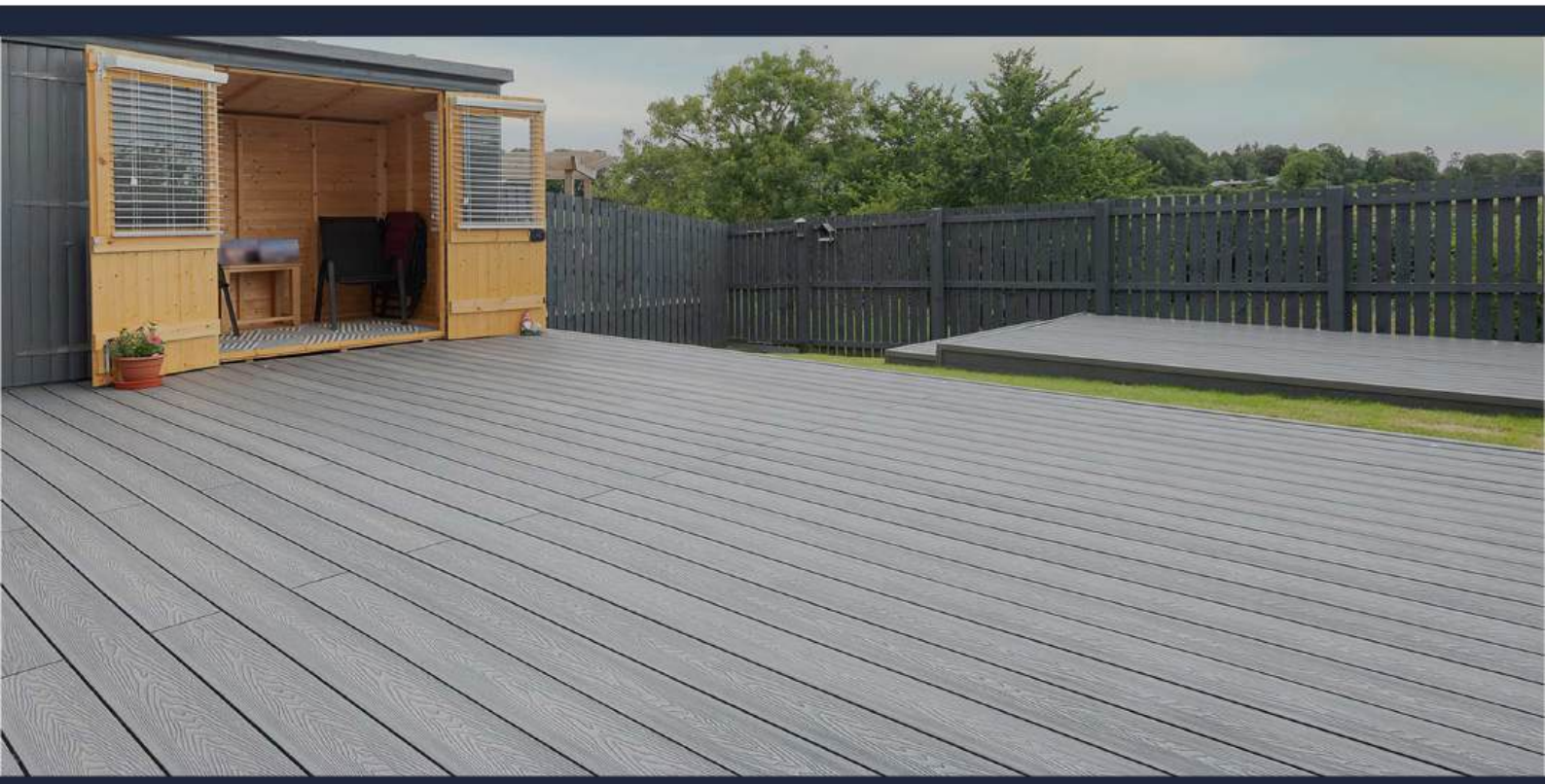
ALPHA
DECKING

Composite Decking Installation Guide



Before Installation

Composite decking is extremely durable however, to make sure it stays in tip top condition please follow these installation instructions when working with Alpha Composite Decking products

Handling your decking

Storage and preparation area:
Ensure a suitable, shaded, and flat area is cleared and ready before installation begins. If you're not installing your decking for more than 24 hours after delivery please ensure you cover your decking to protect it from the elements.

Board Placement:
Lay your decking boards and accompanying components on wooden battens or similar spaced approximately 400–500mm apart. This helps keep them elevated from the ground to avoid contact with standing water, dirt, or grit that could cause damage or surface scratching before installation.

Acclimatisation:
Allow at least 24 hours for your decking boards to acclimatise to the outdoor environment before installation. This is particularly important during periods of extreme temperature (above 30°C or below 2–3°C). We do not recommend installation in these extreme temperatures if possible.

Handling:
Wear gloves and take care when lifting, moving, or fitting boards to prevent accidental scratches. Never drag or drop boards across rough surfaces.

Work Area:
Maintain a clean and tidy workspace to protect the decking surface from construction debris and potential damage

Recommend/Potential Tools Needed

• Hammer Drill • Hand Drill • Tape Measure • Pencil • Jigsaw • Skill/Circular Saw • Table Saw
• Mitre Saw • Spirit Level • Carpentry Square • Shovel • Hole Digger

Recommend PPE and Safety Equipment

• Ear Protection • Safety Glasses • Safety Gloves • Long Sleeves • Dust Mask • Safety Footwear

Always refer to manufacturers instructions before using any machinery or tools you are unsure of.

ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST

Pre-planning

Pre-planning is key before you start doing any work. Consult a design specialist if you are unsure where to start your design process. Please ensure you comply with any and all UK and local building regulations controlling decking.

Working with Composite

Your composite decking and accompanying accessories can be worked with using normal woodworking and metal cutting tools.

We recommend using a wood/nail tough saw with a fine-tooth blade for cutting. We do advise using a new blade when possible when starting a new project.

When cutting and working with our products please, ensure they are always properly supported at all times and never leave items standing up when not being used for long periods of time.

Expansion Gaps

Composite products naturally expand in hot weather and contract in cooler weather due to their wood and plastic composition. Therefore, it's essential to leave expansion gaps during installation.

Failing to leave the correct expansion gaps will invalidate any warranty.

Guidelines for expansion gaps:

Temperature during installation	Butt joint expansion gap
0°c to 5°c	7mm between butt joins
5°c to 15°c	6mm between butt joins
15°c and above	4mm-5mm between butt joins

Temperature during installation	Expansion gap to fixed object (e.g a wall)
All Temperatures	10mm to fixed object

Temperature during installation	Expansion gap perpendicular to fixed object
All Temperatures	10mm to fixed object

Colour

Natural Colour Variation & Batch Consistency

As our composite decking contains 60% wood fibres, some natural variation in colour and grain is to be expected. Even boards from the same batch may show very slight differences, and boards exposed to weather at different times can mature at different rates, leading to variation in appearance across separate areas.

For best results, we strongly recommend purchasing all boards required for your project in one order. This helps ensure consistency, as boards from the same production batch are more likely to match in both colour and grain. While any variation between batches is usually minimal, we cannot guarantee an exact match if additional boards are purchased at a later date.

TIP: Laying out all the boards prior to installation to ensure a natural effect of grain and colour tone is balanced across the whole of your Decking. As with all materials exposed to direct sunlight, some natural weathering may occur over time.

Weathering and Colour Fade

DUE TO THE NATURAL COLOUR FADING PROCESS OUTLINED BELOW WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND LAYING ALL THE BOARDS FOR A PROJECT AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MUCH AS THE PROJECT ALLOWS

In the first few months after installation, your composite decking will undergo a natural weathering process. As the boards are exposed to UV light, the wood fibres within them release naturally occurring tannins. This results in a gradual lightening of the surface colour, typically by around 10–20%, and a subtle softening of the wood grain texture. This change is most noticeable within the first 1–2 months of exposure during sunnier periods.

The speed of this process depends largely on the time of year and the level of UV exposure. For example, during summer the weathering may complete within 1–2 months, while in winter it may take 4–5 months to reach the same stage. This initial change is entirely normal and expected. After this early period, the colour will begin to stabilise. Over the longer term, any further fading will happen very gradually and, in most cases, will be unoticeable to the eye.

Below is a visual example showing typical colour changes after two months of UV exposure. Please note that while we have aimed to show this as accurately as possible, factors such as lighting, camera settings, and actual exposure conditions may affect how colours appear in real life. Please note this only shows affects of 8 weeks of exposure. Further weathering would occur after this test if left.

Subframe Installions

Your decking should always be installed and fixed onto ta suitable, flat, stable subframe - **DECKING BOARDS MUST NEVER BE LAID DIRECTLY ON THE GROUND, HARD OR SOFT.** You must always use a suitable sub-frame as described in this guide.

Please be aware that this is only a guide and the instructions outlined may not be suitable for every project. We strongly recommend speaking to a professional and getting personalised advice for your specific project before laying and building any subframes, if you are not qualified, or have no previous relevant experience. Incorrectly built sub-frames may invalidate your warranty but this guide aims to give as much gudiance as possible to ensure the validity of your warranty. We cannot give project specific installation guidance passed what is outlined in this guide as we do not install the decking or subframes ourselves and therefore do not know the intricacies of each and every job or project.

Decking and joists will expand and contract lengthways due to temperature changes so make sure there is an expansion area at each end of the decking a minimum of 10mm when being laid running into or perpendicular to fixed objects such as walls.

Warranty Requirements – Subframe Installation Guidelines:

To maintain the validity of your decking warranty, the following installation guidelines must be followed:

- If using a concrete bases and our composite joists the bases should be a minimum of 100mm deep

- Decking boards must never be laid directly on the ground, whether hard or soft surfaces.

- All subframe bases should be installed with a slight slope of approximately 5mm per metre to allow water to drain away from buildings and towards a suitable drainage point. Composite decking is water-resistant, not waterproof. Standing water or poor drainage under or on top of boards can still cause long-term issues such as algae growth or discolouration.

- A suitable duble joist structure must be used beneath the ends of all decking boards. Where boards meet at butt joints, a double joist configuration is required so that both board ends are fully supported by their own joist and spacer clip (refer to page 11, fig. 8).

- When using our Alpha Decking pedestal system, loads must not exceed 350kg per m^2, and joist cradles must be spaced no more than 300mm apart for joist centres.

- Avoid installing in extreme temperatures (under 2°C or over 30°C) as this can affect board expansion. Allow boards to acclimatise for at least 24 hours before all installations.

- Ensure airflow under the decking to allow moisture to escape and to prevent mould or warping. Avoid sealing the entire perimeter without venting. A minimum airflow gap of 30mm should always be followed.

Joist Centres

The maximum recommended space between joist rows depends on the angle at which you intend to lay your boards in relation to the joists. Centres should never exceed:

• **400mm** maximum when boards are laid vertically or horizontally *altough we recommend between 300mm-350mm for added support and strength*

• **300mm** when boards are laid vertically or horizontally using ours or any other plastic pedestal system

• **250mm** when boards are laid diagonally on any subframe type

These joist centres are based on a minimum joist size of:

• 100cm x 50cm (4" x 2") when using timber joists or composite equilvilants

• 50mm x 30mm (2" x 1.18") when using our composite joists laid on a concrete base or pedestals

Subframe Option

Alpha Composite Decking can be installed on various types of subframes including timber joists, composite joists or a combination of joists and pedestals. In this guide we will cover 3 options.

Choose the right option for you.

1 - Using Composite Joists

Our composite joists are long-life, moisture resistant alternative to timber. This low load bearing subframe option is designed to be installed directly onto a solid, flat concrete base with a thickness of at least 100mm.

2 - Using Plastic Pedestals

Our adjustable pedestals are designed to raise your decking subframe without needing to use posts. A flat, solid base is needed such as a concrete base with a thickness of at least 100mm.

3 - Using Timber Joists and Posts

YYour decking can also be installed on a timber joist and post subframe system. This method is particularly effective in areas with soft, sloped, or uneven ground.

1 - USING ALPHA COMPOSITE JOISTS

Subframe installation using Alpha Composite joists and a concrete base

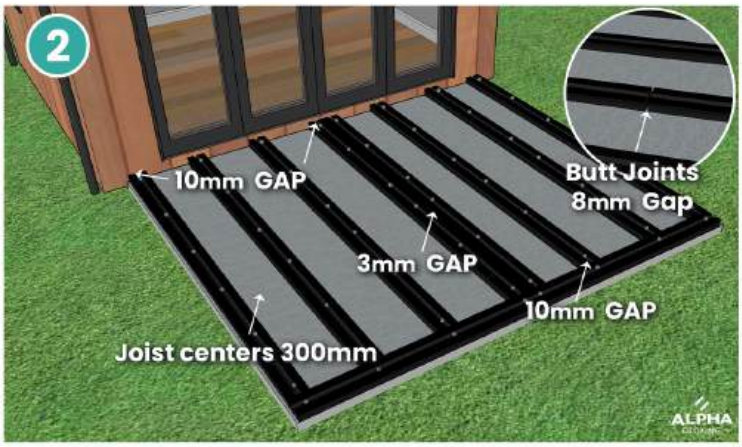
This section of our installation guide will explain how we recommend fixing Alpha Composite Joists onto a solid, stable, flat base of concrete to create your low lying sub-frame.

Note: Whilst we recommend our Alpha Composite joists, as an alternative subframe option - plastic, metal aluminium joists can be used.

Step 1 - Start with the base

The area where the decking is to be installed must be flat, stable, and well-prepared. If using a concrete base, it should be a minimum of 100mm thick and include a gentle slope of 1%–1.5%, sloping away from the property to allow effective drainage and prevent water pooling beneath the decking.

Tip: For enhanced drainage, consider adding 6–8mm holes through the full depth of the concrete base every 4–5m² to allow water to escape into the ground below.



Laying Joists & Spacing

Begin by marking out and laying your joists.

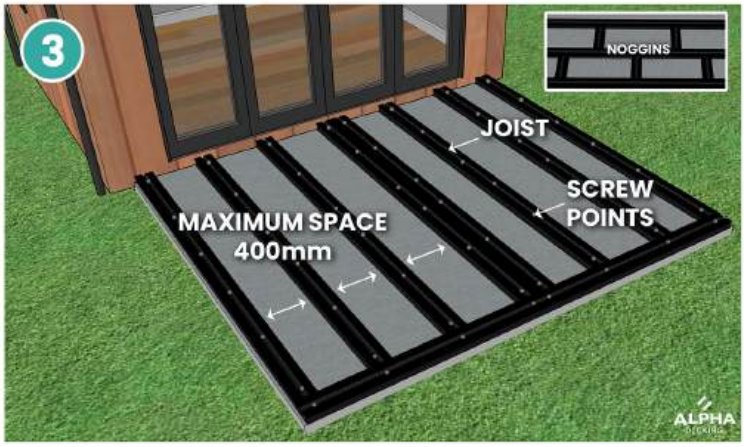
Leave a minimum 10mm expansion gap between the ends of joists and any fixed structure, such as walls other permanent features or other fixed joists.

Where double joists are required, for example, beneath butt joints between two decking boards, leave a 3mm gap between the adjacent joists to allow for natural expansion. Each board end must rest fully on its own joist for proper support (see page 11, fig 8 for reference).

If two joist ends meet, leave an 8mm expansion gap to accommodate movement and prevent compression.

For all rows of joists we recommend leaving gaps for water to run away between the joists that may fall through the decking and into the subframe area. Never create a fully closed system where water cannot escape.

1 - USING ALPHA COMPOSITE JOISTS



Joist centres should ideally be spaced between 300mm and 400mm and must never exceed 400mm. For areas expecting heavier loads or where boards are laid diagonally, joist spacing should be reduced to a maximum of 250mm for adequate support.

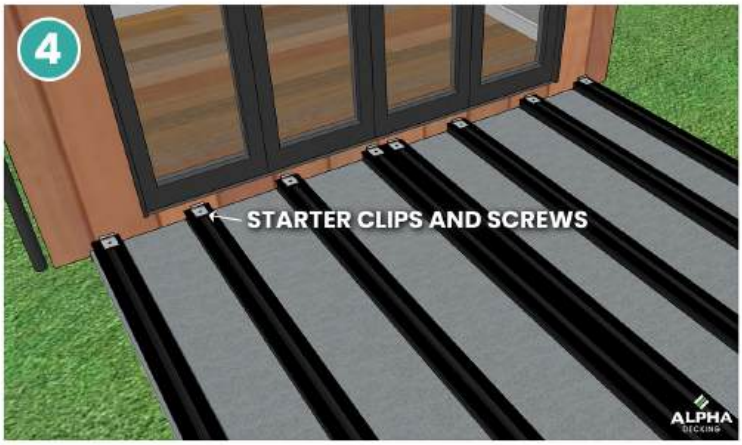
Each full length decking board must be supported by at least two joists. Any shorter cut sections should rest on a minimum of three joists to maintain strength and prevent flexing.

To fix the joists to a concrete base, begin by pre-drilling holes through the centre of each joist. The first fixing should be positioned approximately 60–70mm from the joist end, followed by additional fixings every 500mm along the length. Use a drill bit suitable for the surface, and fix with appropriate anchors, expansion bolts or screws may be required depending on the base type.

For added support, a suitable outdoor-grade silicone adhesive may be applied beneath the joists. Alternatively, a cement mix can be used either side of the joists to help hold them in position.

Tip: For increased strength and rigidity, we recommend installing noggins (short horizontal bracing) between joists at regular intervals.

Step 2 - Installing your decking



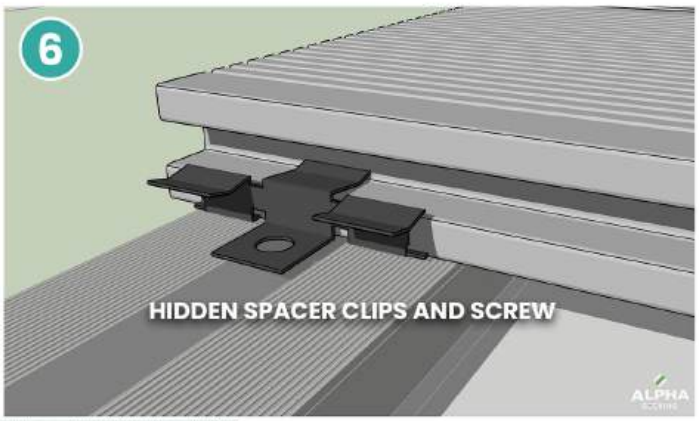
Before laying your decking boards, starter clips must be fixed to the ends of the composite joists along the starting edge. Position one clip at the end of each joist where the first decking board will be installed. These clips securely hold the edge of the first board in place and help ensure correct alignment for the rest of the installation.

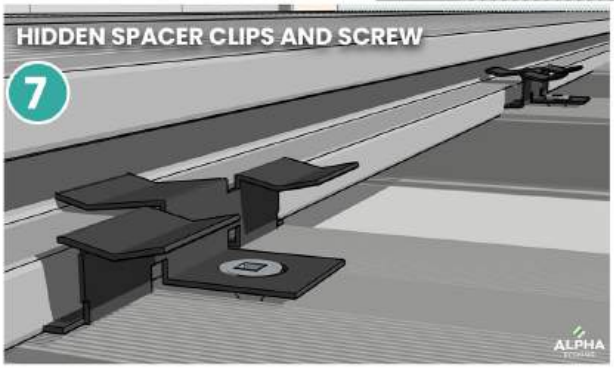
Important: Leave a 10mm expansion gap between the edge of the first board and any fixed object, such as a wall or post, to allow for natural board movement.

Begin at the outer edge of the decking area. Position your first board and secure it to each joist it crosses using a row of starter clips.

Once the first board is in place, continue laying the remaining boards using our black stainless steel spacer clips. These clips are designed to fit into the side groove of each board. Once inserted, fix each clip to the joist below using the supplied screws and the pre-drilled hole in the clip. You may use a rubber mallet and small block of wood to help gentle incourage the boards into the clips if needed. Never directly hit the decking boards. Shims or packers can be used to help ensure uniform gaps along the decking runs.

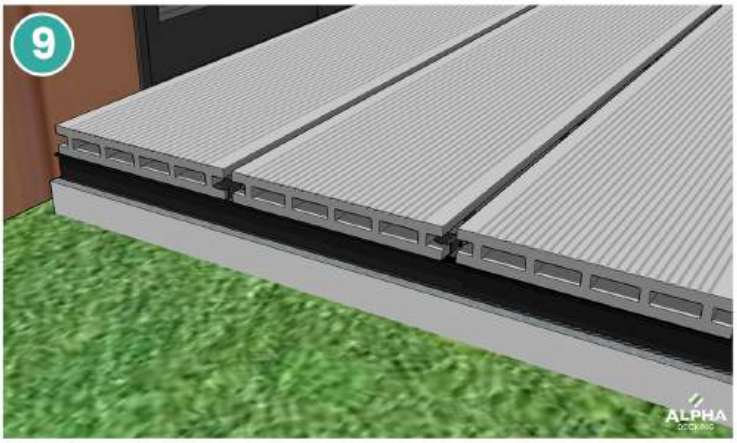
Use one spacer clip per joist for consistent and secure installation. The spacer clips automatically create a uniform gap of approximately 2mm between each board, allowing for expansion and ensuring a clean, professional finish.





Decking Butt Joints

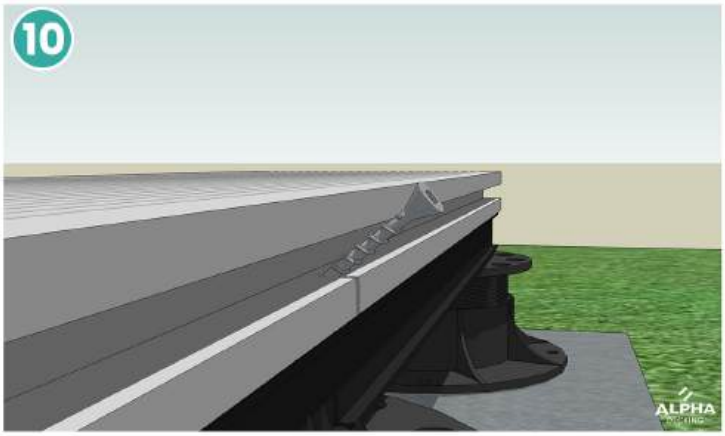
When two decking boards meet end-to-end within a run, and double joists are required beneath the joint, each board end must be secured with its own spacer clip. This ensures both boards are properly supported and held firmly in place at the butt joint (as shown left) and that proper expansion gas are left (see page 4) .



Board End Support

Ensure that the ends of all decking boards are fully supported by joists. Overhanging board ends are not recommended, as they can lead to flexing, damage, or long-term structural issues.

Step 3 - Securing the last board



With all other boards fixed in place, the final board can be secured by screwing through the bottom edge at an angle into the joist. Fixings should be made at 300mm intervals, in line with the joist spacing. This method applies whether you're using a pedestal system or a fixed subframe.

Pre-drill pilot holes that are approximately 2-3mm wider than the screw shank to reduce the risk of splitting.

Do not overdrive the screws into the decking boards, as this may damage the material or cause it to split. Alternatively or combined for added stability, you may also apply a suitable exterior-grade silicone adhesive along the joist where the final board rests. Use a weight to hold the board in place while the adhesive cures.

Subframe installation using our adjustable pedestals and composite joists on a concrete base

This section of our installation guide will explain how we recommend fixing our adjustable pedestals and Alpha Composite Joists onto a solid, stable, flat base of concrete to create your raised subframe.

Note: Whilst we recommend our Alpha Composite joists, as an alternative subframe option - plastic, timber or metal aluminium joists can be used.

Step 1 - Start with the base

The area where the decking is to be installed must be flat, stable, and well-prepared. If using a concrete base, it should be a minimum of 100mm thick and include a gentle slope of 1%–1.5%, sloping away from the property to allow effective drainage and prevent water pooling beneath the decking.

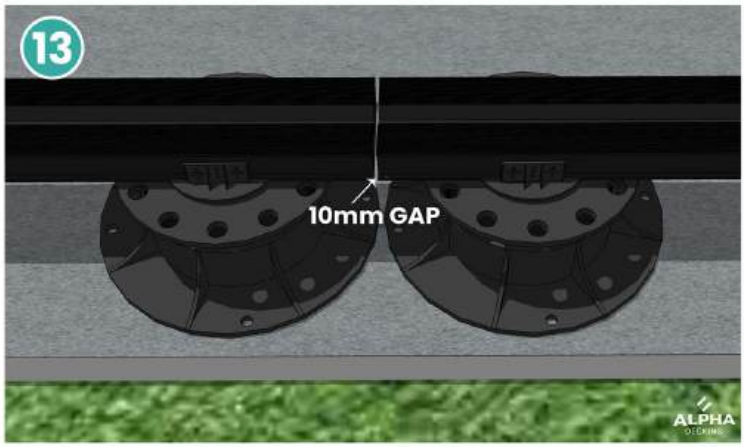
Tip: For enhanced drainage, consider adding 6–8mm holes through the full depth of the concrete base every 4–5m² to allow water to escape into the ground below.

Laying out your pedestals

Begin at the outer edge of the decking area and lay out your pedestals in a grid formation. Each pedestal must be positioned to fully support the span of the joists.

When using Alpha Composite Joists, pedestal spacing must not exceed 300mm along the length of the joist or between joists the direction the boards will run. Joists should always be laid at right angles to the direction in which the decking boards will run.

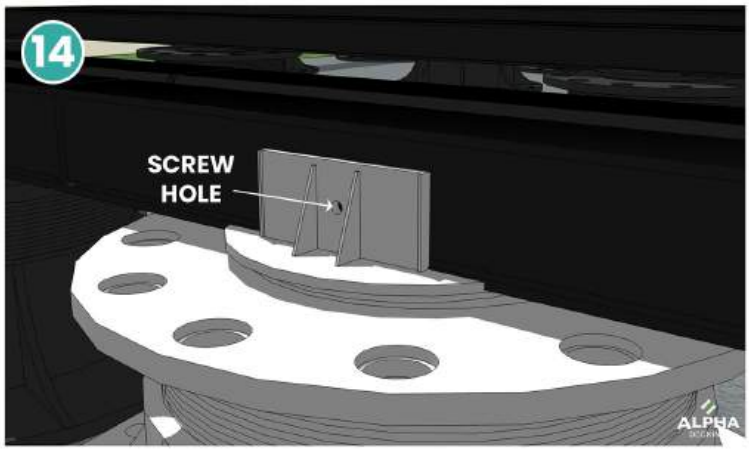
Ensure there is a minimum ventilation gap of 30mm between the underside of the joists and the ground. This helps prevent moisture build-up and allows airflow beneath the deck,



Where two joists meet end-to-end (butt joint), two pedestals should be used—one under the end of each joist—to provide proper support. Leave a 10mm expansion gap between the joist ends, as shown in picture 13 (left).

If required, adjust the height of your pedestals by rotating the base and upper section until the joist sits level. We recommend using a spirit level throughout this process to ensure an even and stable subframe with needed slope.

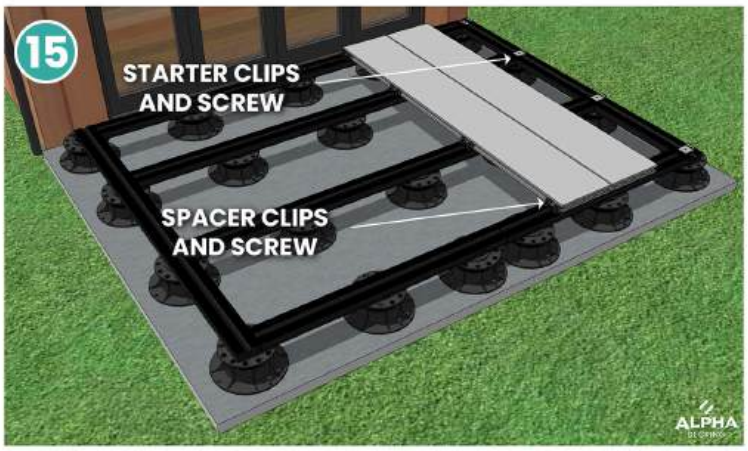
Step 2 - Fixing the joists and laying decking

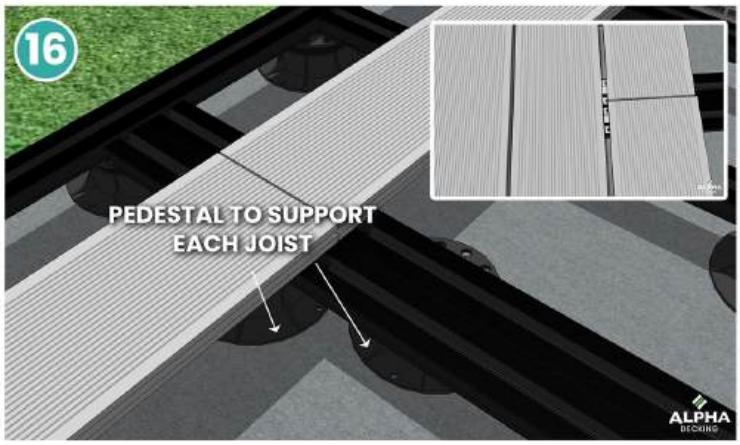


Once all joists are level, they can be fixed to the pedestals by driving suitable screws through the holes in the pedestal cradle and into the side of each joist.

Pedestals may also be fixed to the surface. However, in most cases, the combined weight of the joists and decking boards is sufficient to keep the structure securely in place without additional fixing.

Important: Do not fix pedestals to roof terraces or any surface with a waterproof membrane, as this could compromise the integrity of the waterproofing or damage the structure beneath.





Laying your boards

Once your subframe is securely in place, you can begin laying your decking boards over the joist network. Follow the same principles outlined earlier on pages 10 and 11.

At board butt joints, each joist must be supported by its own pedestal and secured as outlined on pages 3 and 4. Ensure a 3mm expansion gap is left between the adjacent joists to allow for natural movement.

Subframe installation using joists and posts

The method shown here represents just one example of how to install a post and joist subframe. There are many other suitable techniques and configurations depending on your site conditions, materials used, and project requirements. Always adapt your installation approach to suit the specific needs of your project.

We always recommend using a bearer network as described here where decking will be more than 450-500mm abve ground level.

Your decking can also be installed on a joist and post subframe network. This method is particularly effective in areas with sloped, uneven, or soft ground, where a raised structure is required. On soft ground, post supports are essential for providing stable and lasting support. Both plastic and treated timber posts can be used, depending on the site and structural needs.

These recommendations in this example are based on using:

100mm x 100mm treated timber posts and 100mm (4") x 50mm (2") treated timber joists and bearers.

Before installation

Ensure the area is clear of all obstacles, including buried cables and pipes.

Step 1 - Marking Out and Digging Post Holes

Measure and mark the full area to be decked, including the locations of post holes. Posts should typically be spaced at approximately 1000mm centres.

Dig each hole to a minimum depth of 500mm or atleast one third of the lenght of the post, with the hole width at least 2–2.5 times the width of the post.

Step 2 - Setting Posts

Cut your posts to the required height. If unsure, leave them slightly longer and trim down once the frame is levelled.

Place a layer of gravel at the bottom of each hole to aid drainage and help stabilise the posts during levelling.

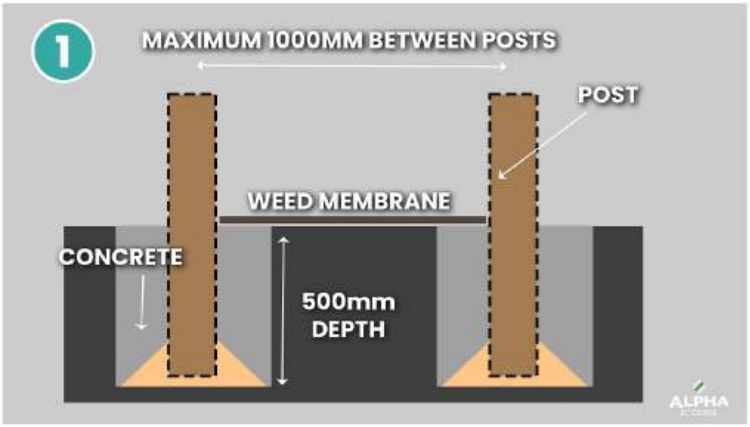
Set the posts in place and pour concrete into the holes. Allow time for the concrete to cure before continuing. Keep all posts vertically aligned while the concrete cures, and make sure their top edges are level to create an even base for the frame.

Step 3 - Weed Protection

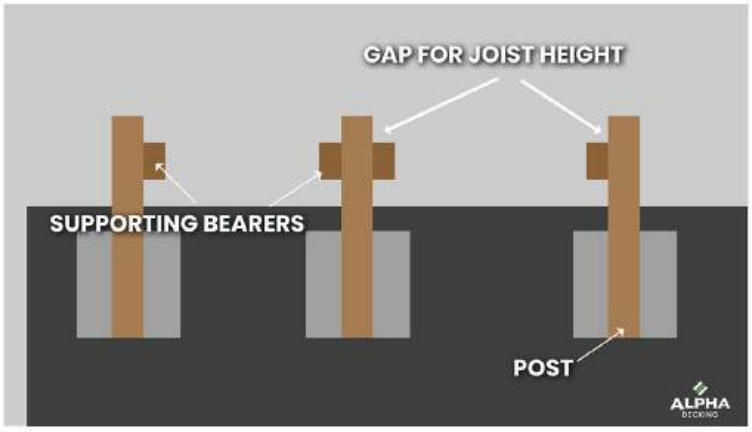
Lay a weed membrane over the area to prevent vegetation growth. Trim to fit and secure in place with gravel or ground pegs.

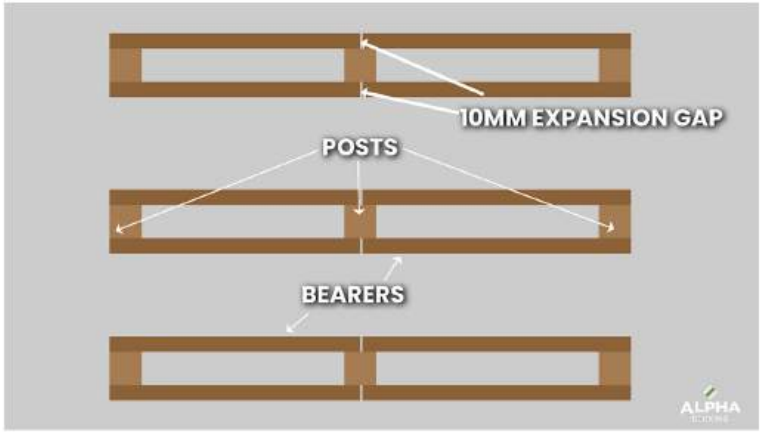
Tips: • Include a drainage slope of 1%–1.5% away from buildings • Composite decking must sit at least 300mm above soft ground to allow airflow and reduce moisture build-up. • Ensure foundations are slightly raised above surrounding ground levels to prevent water pooling.

Step 1 - Set Out Posts & Bearers

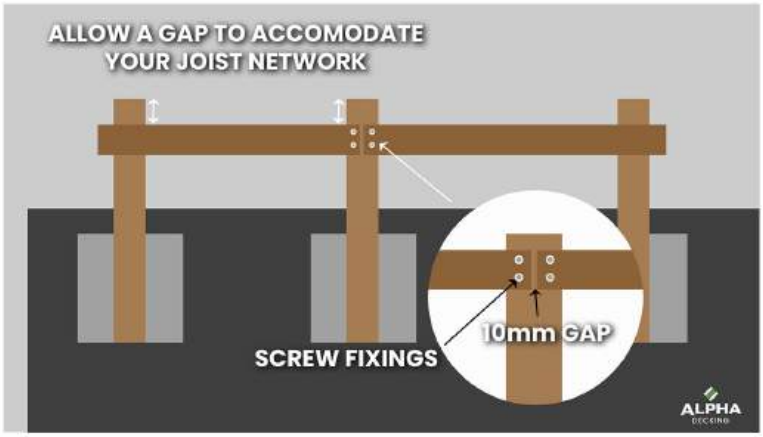


After marking out your decking area, set out your posts in a clear grid formation. Position them at maximum 1000mm intervals. This is the maximum recommended support span for the joists used to form the cross-bearer and joist framework.





Install a row of cross-bearers along the line of posts to create a stable foundation for your joist structure. When securing the bearers, ensure there is sufficent clearance above each one to accommodate the full depth of the joists that will be installed on top. Avoid leaving bearer ends unsupported or overhanging by more than 50mm.

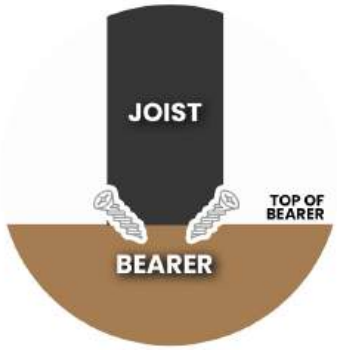


Securing Bearers At Joins

Where two bearers meet, the joint must be fully supported by a post, and a 10mm expansion gap should be left between the bearer ends to allow for natural movement. If joists are joined directly above this point, use double bearers to provide adequate support.

To fix each bearer securely to the supporting post, use two 6–10mm single-thread screws at every intersection. Always pre-drill the bearers with an oversized pilot hole (around 2-3mm) to reduce the risk of splitting.

Step 2 - Installing Joists



Laying Your Joist Network

Joists should be laid directly on top of the bearer network, following the recommended spacing guidelines based on your chosen board layout (e.g. straight or diagonal).

Start by securing the outer joists to the subframe to establish your frame edges. Then continue installing the remaining joists along the bearer network, maintaining even spacing throughout.

For added strength and to minimise movement, install noggins (short horizontal supports) between joists at regular intervals. Avoid leaving joist ends unsupported or overhanging by more than 50mm.

Fixing Your Joists

Secure each joist by screwing diagonally through the joist into the bearer below. Use 6–10mm single-thread screws and always pre-drill oversized pilot holes (approx 2-3mm) to allow for material expansion and prevent splitting.

To increase stability, install noggins (short cross-sections) between joists at regular intervals. Off-cuts of the same joist material can be used for this purpose.

When joining two joists end-to-end, leave a 10mm expansion gap between them. Where two decking boards are expected to meet (butt joint), ensure proper support by installing a double joist, each board end must rest fully on its own joist.

For additional strength, fix through the inner joists into the supporting bearers beneath.

Once joists have been fixed you'll be ready for start laying your decking following the same processes from page 10 and 11.

Important Note

The method shown here represents just one example of how to install a post and joist subframe. There are many other suitable techniques and configurations depending on your site conditions, materials used, and project requirements. Always adapt your installation approach to suit the specific needs of your project, and ensure it meets relevant structural and safety guidelines.

Alternative Installation

Joists Fixed Directly to Posts (No Bearers)

If your decking is being installed at a height of less than 450mm–500mm above ground level, a bearer network may not be necessary. In these cases, the joists can be fixed directly onto the posts, simplifying the build while still maintaining the required strength and stability. The overall construction process remains similar.

Post Layout

Posts must be positioned to provide full support beneath each joist:

Across the width of the deck, posts must align with every joist run (e.g. at 300mm–400mm centres, depending on joist spacing).

Along the length of each joist, posts can be spaced up to 1000mm apart, depending on the joist strength and expected load.

Ensure all posts are cut to a consistent height and sit level across the full layout. Posts should be concreted into the ground at a minimum depth of 500mm, ideally over a layer of gravel for improved drainage.

Fixing Joists

Position each joist directly on top of its row of supporting posts.

Secure using structural screws or metal brackets suitable for outdoor use.

Maintain 300mm joist centres for standard board layouts, or reduce to 250mm for diagonal installations.

Where two joists meet end to end, leave a 10mm expansion gap, and ensure both ends are independently supported by a post.

Additional Support

Add noggins between joists to reduce lateral movement and increase frame rigidity at regular alternate intervals.

Always Maintain at least 100mm clearance between the underside of the joists and the ground to allow airflow and reduce the risk of moisture build-up.

Framing and Finishing

Begin by installing the perimeter joists to form a square and level outer frame. Then, lay the internal joists across the structure, followed by your decking boards using the standard fixing method as described in this guide on pages 10 and 11.

Examples






Disclaimer

Important Note

The subframe examples shown are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect every detail of a completed installation. These photos were taken at various stages of construction and may not represent the final subframe structure.
All installations must follow the full guidelines provided in this document to ensure proper structural support and to maintain the validity of your product warranty.

Step 3 - Finishing off your decking

Edge Trims

Corner trims are L-shaped angle pieces designed to finish and protect the exposed edges of your composite decking. They can be fitted in a matching colour for a seamless look or in a contrasting shade, such as grey decking with anthracite trim, for a more defined, decorative edge.

Fascia Boards

Fascia boards are designed to finish the vertical faces of your decking area, providing a clean and polished edge. They can be installed in a matching colour for a uniform appearance, or in a contrasting colour, for example, grey decking paired with anthracite fascia, for a bold, decorative finish.

Installing Edge Corner Trims

Begin by measuring the length of the edge where the trim will be fitted. Edge trims can be cut to size using the same tools as used for our composite decking boards.

If placing two trims end to end, butt them together and leave a 3mm expansion gap to allow for natural movement (as shown above).

Corner trims can be fixed using screws or a suitable outdoor silicon based adhesive. For a cleaner, screw-free finish, silicon based adhesive is recommended. Use applied apply a weight on top or tape up tight and leave for 24hrs undisturbed.

If using screws, always pre-drill an oversized pilot hole approximately 2–3mm wider than the screw shank to allow for expansion and reduce the risk of splitting.

Installing Fascia Boards

Begin by measuring the length of the edge where the fascia board will be fitted. Fascia boards can be cut to size using the same tools as used for our composite decking boards.

If fitting two fascia boards side by side, must have a 4mm expansion gap left. Fascia boards can be fixed by screwing directly into the subframe or by using a silicon based outdoor adhesive for a cleaner, screw-free finish.

If using screws, always pre-drill an oversized pilot hole around 2–3mm wider than the screw shank to allow for expansion and help prevent splitting.

For areas where the fascia height exceeds the width of a single fascia board, decking boards can be used as fascia cladding. In this case:

- Use starter clips to secure the top edge of the uppermost board from underneath.
- Install additional spacer clips between each board to hold them in place.
- Finish by using starter clips at the bottom of the final board to firmly fix the full fascia run.

This method creates a clean, consistent vertical finish using the same material as your decking surface, particularly useful for raised decking installations.

Top Tips for looking after your composite decking

Our low-maintenance composite fencing comes with the reassurance of continual performance year-on-year, however we know that with a little care and attention once in a while our fencing can continue to look their sparkling best. This section will give you some handy tips on how to care for your fencing.

Routine Cleaning

We recommend a routine clean of your decking when necessary and especially after the autumn/winter season, going into spring, to clear away dirt and debris that can accumulate over time.

General Clean: Use warm, soapy water with a non-abrasive cleaning cloth or sponge. Ensure you only use non-abrasive cleaning products, such as dishwashing liquid, and non-abrasive cleaning cloths and sponges.

Jet Wash: You can use a jet wash with a pressure no greater than 2000 PSI to clean the surface of your decking products. Use the fan attachment and ensure it is not applied any closer than 250mm-300mm away from the surface. Test a hidden area first if possible. Overuse or prolonged exposure to high pressure can damage the products, so please bear this in mind. In general, a sponge and soap clean will be sufficient.

Stubborn Spot Stains

For stubborn stains, such as oil and grease marks or bird/animal droppings, use the techniques outlined in the general cleaning section above, along with the following advice.

Immediate Action: Clean any spillages of liquids, grease, oil, or food from your composite decking immediately. The longer these substances remain on the surface, the higher the chance they have of causing damage by soaking into the composite, potentially causing lasting damage and invalidating any warranty.

Bird/Animal Droppings: Although bird and animal droppings will not cause structural damage, their acidity can cause long-lasting stains. We recommend rinsing and cleaning them off within a few days of their appearance.

Surface Mildew and Mould Growth

While our boards are resistant to the damaging effects of mould and mildew, this type of growth can occur on almost any outdoor surface and may collect on the surface of our slats. Following the steps in our general cleaning section will help avoid excessive build-up of such growth. Treat the affected area within the first 7 days if possible.

Water Staining - Tannin Water Spots

After it rains or when your slats get wet, you might notice tannin water spots on your decking. These occur when rain/water mixes with the naturally produced tannins from the wood-based components of the decking. The tannins contribute to the color of the decking and can sometimes leave temporary water spots as they dry.

What to Expect

Drying and Fading: The water spots will dry out and completely fade over time. This process is natural, so there's no need to worry. As the panels dry, you will see the spots gradually disappear.

Drying Time: Since the decking is wood-based, they may take a bit longer to dry fully. Some water may be absorbed into the wood before it completely dries out. This can take a little longer than just being touch dry.

Assurances

Normal Process: This is not staining; it's a completely normal process. The spots will fade away within a few weeks as the panels are exposed to rain and sun and dry fully.

Tips to Speed Up the Process

Warm Water and Cloth: If you want to speed up the drying process, you can use warm water and a cloth to wipe over the panels. This can help accelerate the fading of the spots.

When cleaning slats, please ensure you only use non-abrasive cleaning products, such as dishwashing liquid, and non-abrasive cleaning cloths and sponges.

Clearing Ice And Snow

We recommend maintaining a safe deck when the winter hits by ensuring snow and ice affected area to assist with the removal of surface residue.

• Avoid using metal shovels, rakes, hoes and ice chippers and any other sharp objects to clear snow or ice off your deck. Instead use a plastic shovel, otherwise you run the risk of scratching or damaging the surface of the boards.

• We recommend using a salt-free, non-corrosive ice melt which is designed not to leave any residue on the surface of the boards and is generally more effective than salt-based alternatives. This can be laid either prior to a forecast frost or to areas where ice has already formed.

• While rock salt can be used on our composite decking, we advise that this is cleared away shortly after it has been applied to ensure that it does not damage or scratch the surface of the boards.