

Recycled Ironbark Decking Installation Guide



Pre-Installation and Substructure

STORAGE:

Keep all decking timber dry before installation. Store it in a cool, dry place, with rough sawn face upwards out of direct sunlight, and elevated at least 100mm off the ground on bearers.

PRE-COAT:

Coat all four sides with a penetrating oil (like Cutek CD50) to minimize moisture uptake, checking and cupping.

VENTILATION AND CLEARANCE:

Ensure adequate airflow under the deck to prevent moisture build-up, which can lead to premature failure. A minimum ground clearance of 450mm is recommended, in conjunction with proper board spacing. The perimeter of the deck should remain open to airflow, not fully enclosed.

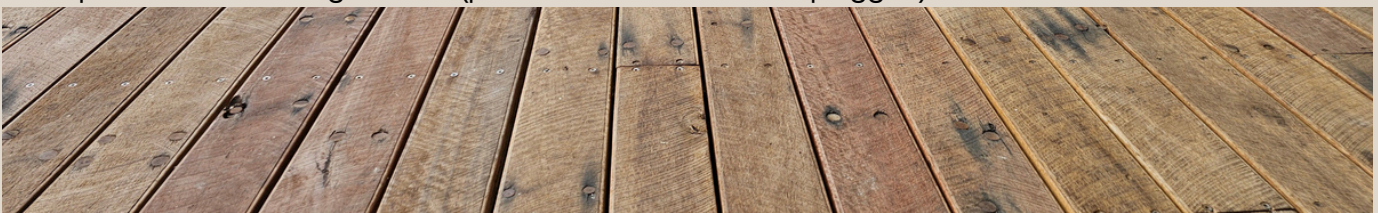
JOIST SPACING:

For 19mm thick hardwood decking, the maximum suggested span for joists is 450mm centres.

SUBSTRUCTURE PROTECTION:

Use a ground-level vapour barrier to minimise moisture differential. Applying joist tape across the tops of the joists can help protect the substructure from moisture.

Bolt holes are a natural feature of this recycled product. In some cases where the decking is used in commercial applications the bolt holes should be filled with plates, resin or putty on installation as they can pose a hazard to high heels. (photo below shows holes plugged)



Note: These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the New Zealand Building Code. When building a deck, please refer to the following standards: NZS3602, NZS3604, NZS3605, NZS3640 and NZS4203. Other recommended references include BRANZ Bulletin Issue 489 (Timber slat decks/balconies).

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Decking Board Installation

BOARD SPACING:

Allow a 4-6mm gap between boards to ensure drainage and air circulation. Timber will shrink as it dries and swell when it takes on moisture. Boards have a moisture content of 14 - 16%. We recommend to discuss this with your builder as every area and condition can vary, this is in conjunction with referring to the building code in your area to ensure correct gap installation.

Maintain a minimum 12mm gap where the decking meets the building cladding to prevent moisture retention.

FASTENING:

- Two fixings are required per joist for each board.
- Recommended to use 10g x 65mm 316 grade stainless steel decking screws.
- Pilot holes must be pre-drilled to prevent splitting, located at least 15mm from the edge and ends of the boards.
- Stagger the fixings across the joists to help prevent splitting.

JOINS:

All butt joints (where the ends of two boards meet) should be made over a joist. Cut the decking square and slightly chamfer the ends of each board to mask any height unevenness.

END SEALING:

Cut ends should be sealed immediately with a suitable end grain sealer to help minimise splitting and checking.

START BOARD:

Start laying full-length boards from the house or a straight edge, maintaining a 12mm gap between the first board and the wall or cladding to allow for expansion and airflow.

All boards are to be laid with rough sawn face up and the dressed face down.

Maintenance

CLEANING:

Clean the deck at least twice annually with a hard-bristled brush or low-pressure water blast to remove debris, dirt, and mould.

COATING:

Coatings can help reduce moisture movement and discolouration. Apply a suitable exterior wood oil to all four sides of the boards, following the manufacturer's instructions. We recommend non water based oils which penetrate into the wood fibre, and protect the material from water damage and other elements - such as Cutek CD50. Avoid using natural linseed oil-based finishes.

RECOATING:

It depends on the exposure, but like all decking timber recoating your hardwood deck once a year is a good guideline.

INSPECTIONS:

Inspect the deck annually for signs of wear and re-coat as needed to maintain the coating's integrity.

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