

## Guidelines for Decking/Hardwood Installation



### Installation & Handling

Keeping all decking dry prior to installation is imperative. Storage of decking on site should be in a dry, cool place, where no direct sunlight can reach the timber, elevated approx 100mm from ground.

### Span

The maximum recommended span for 19mm thick hardwood decking is for joists to be at 450mm centre.

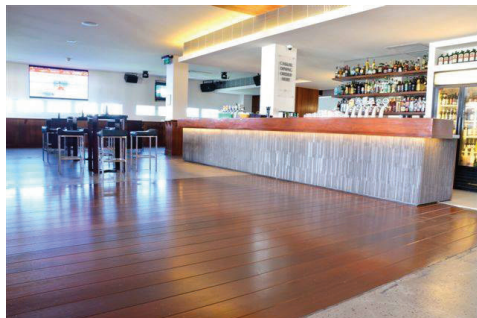
### Board spacing

Spacing between boards should allow for proper air circulation and drainage as well as taking into account the seasonal movements. All timbers shrink as the timber dries and swells as it takes on moisture.

The degree to which this occurs varies depending on timber species and conditions on site, particularly relating to the degree of ventilation provided.

As a guide to allow for this movement, space boards as follows:

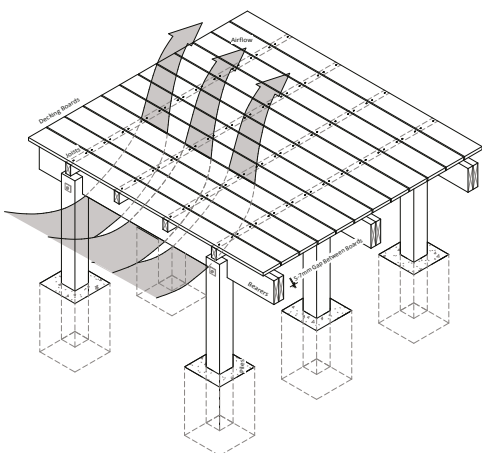
Board width	Kiln-dried spacing
90mm	Min 4mm
140mm	Min 6mm



### Drainage & Ventilation

Adequate ventilation of the deck is essential for long term stability. Allowing air to freely circulate around the deck will reduce the moisture differential between the top and underneath of the boards, minimising the likelihood of cupping and distortion following installation.

To achieve proper ventilation the deck should have at least 450mm clearance from the ground. Adequate drainage of the ground is also essential.



## Guidelines for Decking/Hardwood Installation Continued

### Fastening

All decking boards should have two pre-drilled pilot holes per joist. Pilot holes should penetrate through the decking and not the joist. It is highly recommended that hardwood of F17 rating or higher is used for the joists. This is to greatly reduce the risk of the timber distorting.

For fastening 140 x 19mm decking it is recommended to use 10g x 65mm stainless steel decking screws. Pilot holes should be 15mm from the edge. These recommendations are also acceptable for our 140 x 22mm and 140 x 25mm decking sizes.

For fastening 90 x 19mm decking, 10g x 50mm stainless steel decking screws can be used or alternatively 65mm annular grooved decking nails. If nailing, pilot holes should be 12mm from board edge.

### MAINTENANCE

#### Uncoated timber

Maintenance of your hardwood deck will vary depending on the location of the deck, its construction and many other factors like aspect, drainage, coating, profile and usage etc. Your deck should be cleaned twice annually to remove debris, accumulated dirt and surface mold etc. A hard bristled brush or low pressure water blast will give best results. Chemical cleaning products that can be effective are also available at your local hardware store.

#### End sealing

End checking and splitting can occur when decking boards are cut to length. After you cross cut the decking, it is recommended to re-seal the cut ends. Seal the ends immediately after cutting with a suitable end grain sealer to prevent this issue from occurring.

#### Kiln Dried 10 - 12%

When the timber is Kiln dried, this means that the moisture content in the wood has been artificially controlled via heat, air circulation, and humidity. All of our timber with the exception of our posts are Kiln dried.

This means that the timber must not be exposed to the different weather conditions until it is properly sealed both before and after installation. We recommend this to prevent surface checking, warping, cupping and all around distortion of the timber.

### Coating

Decking should be coated on all four sides prior to installation. Any coating used should be tested first on a small sample to ensure compatibility and always follow the manufacturer's application instructions.

#### Coated timber

Maintenance is the same as for an uncoated deck but also inspection of the deck at least once a year for signs of peeling, discolouration or excessive wear to the coating is recommended.

In order to get your full money's worth of your investment and to keep any ongoing costs to a minimum, it is recommended that as the coating shows signs of wear; apply a fresh coat or two of the last product used as per the product manufacturer's application instructions.

*These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Australian Standards for construction.*