



Decking Installation Guidelines

Everist Timber is committed to providing our customers with the highest quality decking. To ensure that your decking remains in the best condition for as long as possible we recommend that you familiarise yourself with the following information.

1. **Timber decking is a natural “living” product.** It can absorb or lose moisture depending upon its place of installation and ambient conditions (hot, damp, dry). As a result, it moves, expanding and contracting with the weather to suit environmental conditions. You must always bear this in mind when deciding how to handle, store or install timber.
2. **Pre-oil your deck.** The deck must be coated on all sides and ends with a suitable, penetrating oil-based product. We recommend Cutek CD-50 Extreme. Pre-oiling of the whole board (top, bottom, ends and sides) slows down the process of moisture absorption and release and is particularly effective in reducing moisture absorption from underneath the deck.
3. **Allow sufficient space between boards.** We recommend a 5mm gap between boards. It is acceptable to go slightly narrower i.e., 4mm for 65mm boards and slightly wider for 130-140mm boards i.e., 5-6mm.
4. **Use self-drilling stainless steel decking screws.** The holding power of decking screws is far superior to nails. We recommend using 60-65mm screws when fixing into treated pine joist and 50mm when fixing into hardwood. Two screws should be spaced at 450mm centres. Board ends should be predrilled to avoid splitting.
5. **Ventilation.** Sufficient ventilation between deck and ground level helps in reducing moisture absorption from below. Lack of ventilation usually only causes problems if there is little space between deck and ground level.
6. **Be aware of Australian standards.** Australian hardwood decking is seasoned with a moisture content of 10-18% and graded to one face only (Australian Standard 2796).
7. **Check your timber upon delivery.** It's important that timber is checked as soon as it is received and that any inconsistencies with the order or concerns as to the quality are communicated to Everist Timber immediately. Once delivery has been made it is the customers responsibility to ensure it remains in the condition in which it was delivered.