



S. A. RELF & SONS PTY LTD

DECKING PRODUCT USE GUIDE

It is important to be aware that when any timber is exposed to the weather it will take up (absorb) and lose moisture as the environment around the timber changes on both a daily and seasonal basis. The timber will expand or contract (both laterally & vertically) when it takes up or loses moisture. Proper sealing will greatly minimise this effect.

The following information should only be used as a guide and the installer should apply all Australian Standards, BCA requirements, and best practices when installing. The sub-floor moisture and under floor humidity must comply with BCA and AS 1684 requirements. This must include the relevant safety protocols required. This guide should not be used as the sole means of direction.

Decking packs have been manufactured to Australian Standard AS2796.1-1999 and graded to AS2796.2-2006. All decking has been graded to provide one good face and a concealed face. The graded best face will have a chalk mark upon surface, and should be laid with this face up.

Please Note: Tallowwood has been graded to the Australian Standard (AS2796.2-2006) with the exception of Sticker marks (a light discolouration across the width of the board and is a result of the rack sticks location during drying). Sticker marks usually will fade over time when exposed to natural sunlight. The fading process can be assisted by leaving the boards raw without any oil or coating for a number of months. If you are unhappy with the appearance of the sticker marks on the decking boards please do not lay and contact your supplier. S A Relf & Sons will not accept claims on sticker marked decking from the laying process onwards.

VENTILATION & TIMBER FRAMES

The timber sub-frame may absorb moisture from the ground beneath the deck. If adequate ventilation is not provided, the moisture underneath the deck is likely to cause swelling, cupping and or bowing of the decking. Therefore ventilation should always be considered prior to construction. The ground beneath the deck should be graded away from adjacent buildings so the water does not pond (above or beneath the deck). Do not completely box in a deck with solid masonry structures - adequate ventilation is required. If enclosing an end with decking fascias a minimum 15mm gap is recommended for cross airflow. All of the 19mm decking boards irrelevant of species require supporting joists to be spaced no greater than 450mm. The shortest decking length used on a deck should always have true attachment to a minimum of 3 joists beneath it to ensure equal strength / weight displacement. Remember, if a deck is exposed to rain then good drainage & ventilation around and under the deck is required.

DELIVERY & STORAGE

Prior to construction, delivered timber should be stored on dry ground, supported on level bearers. Timber should be covered to protect it from sun and rain. Upon delivery you should check the decking pack labels to ensure the decking supplied is the correct size, species and grade.

SPACINGS

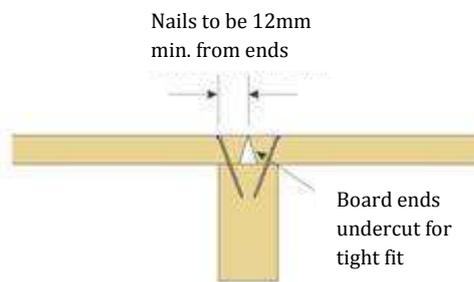
When laying the deck, it is important to space boards with an appropriate gap. This will allow for expansion & contraction in the width of the timber during seasonal periods (heat and rain). This spacing will allow for swelling and to assist the drying process after rain. Accessories are available which will ensure the gaps between boards are identical. We suggest the following gap allowance when planning your deck; board width 130 millimetres at least 5 to 6 millimetres, boards up to 90 millimetres in width allow 4 to 5 millimetres gap.

If building a deck adjacent to a house (or wall) a minimum 10mm clearance is required. Construction around a pool will require 20-30mm clearance adjacent to pool surface.

FIXINGS

The correct fixing size is also very important. Nailing or screwing using decking specific hardware is recommended. Only hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel nails with a ring shank and a minimum length of 65mm for softwood joists, or 50mm for hardwood joists should be used to fix decking. When laying 130mm decking a 14 gauge bugle batten screw with a minimum length of 100mm into a softwood sub-floor is recommended.

Each board should be fixed at every joist crossing with 2 nails/screws. All fixing points should be pre-drilled including the butt ends (at 80% nail diameter) prior to fixing to avoid splitting. When fixing joints stagger the joints so they do not sit on adjoining joists to avoid joists splitting. Fixings should be located at least 12mm from board edges and ends. Adjacent nails should be driven at slightly opposing angles. When bullet head nails are used with hardwood they should be driven flush with the surface. Do not punch and fill. Ensure you check that you have the graded best face, which has chalk marks on the surface, laid face up.

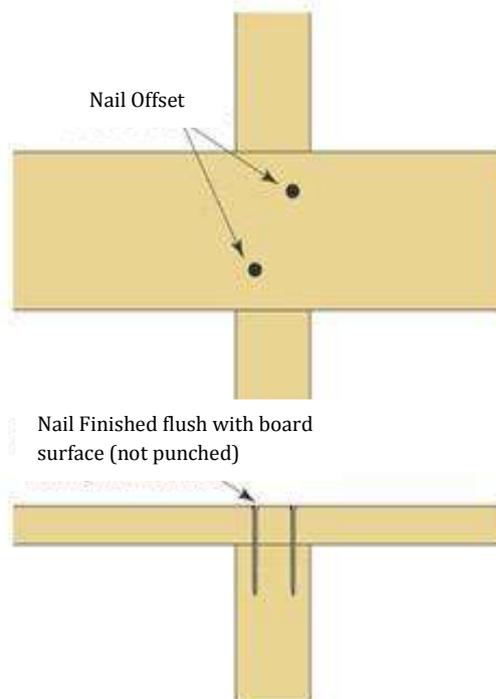


TALLOWOOD Special Considerations.

Some Hardwood timbers such as Tallowwood have a high content of Tannin. The tannin can leach out causing staining not only on your timber but also on any surrounding surfaces i.e. concrete, painted surfaces etc. The tannins can also block the pores of the tallowwood therefore preventing any decking finish penetrating evenly. If you oil the tallowwood too early you may obtain a patchy uneven finish.

Tallowwood can also have 'sticker marks' (a light discolouration across the width of the board and is a result of the rack sticks location during drying). Sticker marks usually will fade over time when exposed to natural sunlight. The fading process can be assisted by leaving the boards raw without any oil or coating for a number of months.

ADVISE: After installation allow a good period of time to allow fading of sticker marks. Prior to oiling wash Tallowwood using a good quality deck wash to reduce tannin deposits that can bleed through the coating and which may inhibit decking oil penetration and/or stain paving or limestone.



FINISHING AFTER INSTALLATION

Timber serviceability is enhanced by the application of a suitable finish. After a new timber deck has been built it must be thoroughly swept and cleaned to remove metal filings from drilling, nailing or other construction that may cause black spots. The finish may take the form of a clear external decking finish, a pigmented oil based stain, or a good quality paint system. The use of the finish should be in accordance with the finish manufacturer's recommendations. The retention of the timber's original colour cannot be guaranteed with the use of a clear finish.

MAINTENANCE

The long term performance of timber decking in weather exposed situations is dependent on regular and effective maintenance. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the type of finish and the degree of exposure to the weather. Before recoating, the decking should be thoroughly cleaned and the gaps between boards, particularly over joists, cleared of debris. Recoating should be carried out in accordance with the finish manufacturer's specifications. The over-watering of pot plants standing on timber decks should be avoided. It is recommended that pots be placed in drip trays standing on small cleats. Where possible decks should be broom/blower cleaned rather than cleaned by hosing.

For more detailed advice or information on the fixing and finishing of specific S. A. Relf & Sons decking products, contact us by phone, fax, or email.



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