

Decking kit fitting instructions

Follow these steps to build a ground-level or low deck from your kit. Read them through before you start, and keep your parts list to hand. Because every site is different, treat these as general guidance and check the structure suits your ground and your project.

Our kits are built to be sturdier and more substantial than many standard kits: the C24 joists are set at 400 mm centres, not the 600 mm centres commonly used, so every board is supported more closely. The result is a firmer, more solid deck with less bounce and better long-term stability.

What is in your kit

- Decking boards
- C24 decking joists
- Fixing kit: stainless decking screws and frame fixings

What is not included

- Handrails, balustrades, newel posts and spindles. Our kits are for ground-level and low decks and do not include them.
- Fascia or edging trim.
- Joist supports (pedestals or slabs), weed control membrane and joist protection tape.
- Fixings to a building, if your deck is attached to one.

Tools you will need

- Tape measure, pencil and speed square
- Spirit level (a long one, 1.2 m or more)
- Drill driver with a torx or pozi bit and a 3 mm pilot drill
- Spade, rake and a rammer or plate compactor for ground prep
- Safety glasses, dust mask and gloves

Step 1: plan and prepare the ground

- 1 Choose a firm, level, well-drained site. Remove turf and topsoil, then lay weed control membrane over the area, overlapping joins by about 100 mm.
- 2 Allow a fall of about 1 in 100 (10 mm per metre) away from any building so rain drains off, and keep air flowing under the deck. Do not block airbricks or damp-proof courses.
- 3 Mark out the deck with string lines and check the diagonals match, so the frame is square.
- 4 Decks raised more than 30 cm above the ground, or attached to a building, may need planning permission or building regulations approval. Check with your local authority first.

Step 2: build the frame

- 1 Lay out the pieces from your parts list. Every joist is already cut to length, so there is nothing to cut.
- 2 Joists run across the short side of the deck, so the boards can run along the long side. Build the outer frame first, then fit the remaining joists inside it at no more than 400 mm centres. Your parts list shows the length and number of joists.
- 3 Fix each joint with two of the frame fixings supplied in your kit, angled slightly. Pre-drill near the ends to stop the timber splitting.
- 4 Support the frame on firm paving slabs, adjustable pedestals or compacted hardcore so no joist span exceeds 1,000 mm. If you want extra stiffness, fit short noggins between the joists in a staggered line using offcuts or extra C24, although the 400 mm joist centres already make the frame firm.
- 5 Check with the spirit level as you go, packing under the supports where needed. The frame must be level across its width and carry the gentle fall away from the house.
- 6 Treat the top face of the joists, or fit joist protection tape, to extend their life where the boards sit.

Frame plan: joists at no more than 400 mm centres, supports (green dots) at no more than 1,000 mm.

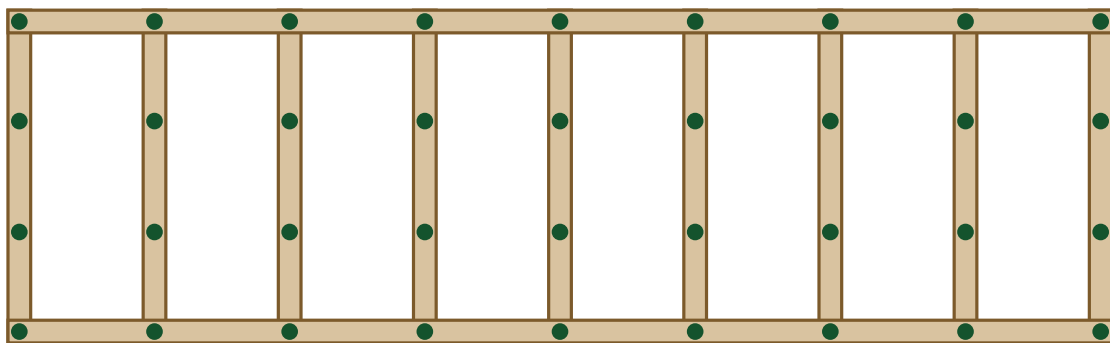
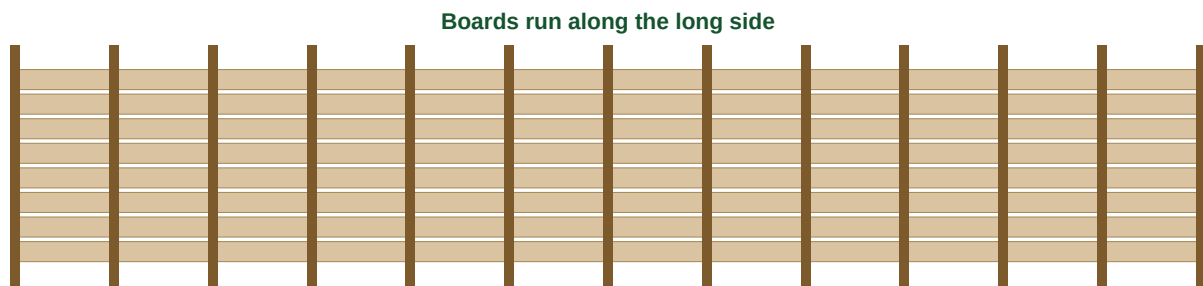


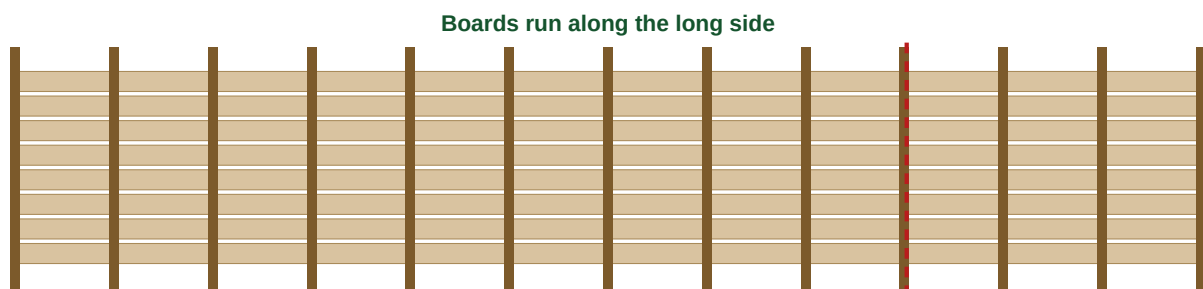
Illustration only. Your joist count and lengths are on your parts list.

Step 3: lay the decking boards

- 1 Boards lie across the joists and run along the long side of the deck. Start with a straight, full-length board along one edge, and check it is square to the frame before fixing.
- 2 Leave a 6 mm gap between boards using spacers. Boards will move a little with the weather, and the gap lets water drain and air circulate.
- 3 Fix with two screws at every joist crossing, about 20 mm from each board edge, and drive them just below the surface. Pre-drill near board ends.
- 4 Boards run along the long side of the deck, and the joists run across it (see the diagram). Where a run is longer than one board, which applies to anti-slip boards (3.6 m lengths only), butt-joint the boards end to end over a doubled joist with a 6 mm gap. Keep every butt joint in one straight line across the deck.
- 5 Boards are supplied cut to length. If you do need to trim a piece on site, seal the cut end with end-grain preserver (not included).
- 6 Green boards are reversible: choose the grooved face for extra grip, or turn the board over to use the smooth reverse. Lay every board with the same face up. SertiWOOD Anti-Slip boards go down with the EPDM rubber strips face up.



Joists (brown) run across the deck at no more than 400 mm centres. Boards are fixed across them with a 6 mm gap.



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Butt joints in one line, over a doubled joist (anti-slip, 3.6 m boards)

Step 4: finish the edges

- 1 Trim the board ends square along the edge, leaving an overhang of up to 25 mm if you want a neat shadow line.
- 2 Fit fascia or edging trim to hide the frame, if you want it (not included in the kit).
- 3 Sweep the deck and check that every board is fixed at every joist.

Step 5: protect and maintain

- 1 Green pressure-treated timber is ready to use. If you want to change its colour or add water repellency, leave it to dry for several weeks, then apply a decking oil or stain.
- 2 Sweep regularly, clear leaves and debris from the gaps, and keep the area around and under the deck ventilated.
- 3 Clean once or twice a year with a decking cleaner, and remove algae from shaded or wet areas, which can be slippery.
- 4 Re-treat any ends you trim and any extra holes you drill after installation.

Safety and regulations

- Wear safety glasses and gloves when handling timber, and a dust mask if you trim any pieces. Treated sawdust should not be burned or used as mulch.
- Handrails and balustrades are not included. If your deck is raised, or if there is a drop of 600 mm or more, you may need guarding. Check the regulations that apply to you before you build.
- Anti-slip boards reduce slip risk but no decking is slip-proof. Keep steps and walkways clean and free from algae.

Please note: our kits do not include handrails, balustrades, newel posts or spindles, and do not include fascia or edging trim, which may be required for your project.

Please also note: all boards and joists are supplied cut to length for the stated deck size, so there is no cutting to do. Quantities are based on the specified dimensions only, so please refer to the fitting instructions.

Need help with your plan? Call 0161 504 0011 and speak to our sales team. We can also arrange a site meeting for larger projects across mainland UK.

All boards and joists are supplied cut to length for your stated deck size. Check the advice that applies to your own site.