



## Choosing the right kind of decking

Choosing the right type of floor will stand to you to in years to come. Picking a floor of a quality suitable to the level of traffic in the room will ensure a longer lifespan and durability.

You can choose between natural woods and Megawood composite decking depending on the look you want to achieve and care needed for each.

**Natural wood** decks have a beautiful finish and if treated correctly can last a long time. With a choice of either soft or hard woods, which give a different feel underfoot, natural woods create a natural surrounding which will blend in well with gardens. A wood deck can be refinished to get that original look back but you cannot do that with Megawood composite decking.

**Megawood** composite decking is made from a combination of wood fibres, recycled plastics, additives and colourants. In comparison to natural wood, Megawood composite decking is a huge time saver. There is no need to treat or paint Megawood decking and simple cleaning with water and household tools is all that's required to keep it in good condition.

**Our staff** will be happy to discuss your options for decking material.

### Brooks is committed to:

Sourcing all timber from legal sources and seek evidence of compliance from suppliers that we are operating in accordance with the laws of their country.

### from our suppliers:

- Evidence of commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance
- Clearest practicable information on the sources of wood products
- Evidence of good forest management practice at the original source of wood products.

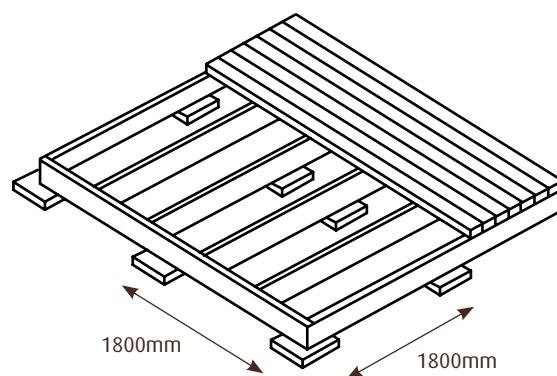
# Step by Step Guide



## A deck can be built in two ways:

### Ground Level Decks

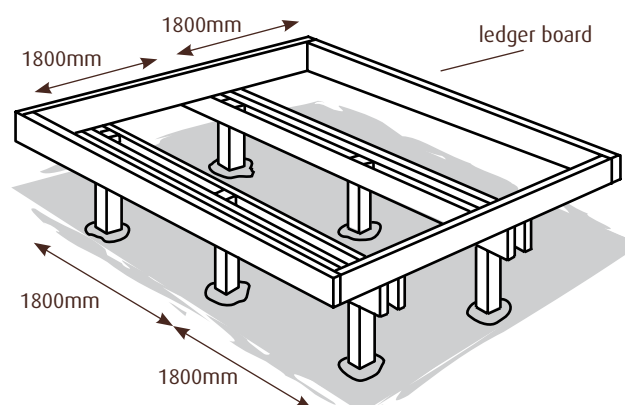
- A deck can be built on a concrete base.
- Use a concrete slab (minimum 600 x 600 x 50mm) and bed into position using a sand and cement mix.
- Space the base support paving slabs at a maximum of 1800mm centres.
- The frame to support and fix the deck should be made of 44 x 150mm TANALITH E treated timber and be mechanically fixed to the slabs.
- Joists should be spaced at 400mm centres.
- Proprietary decking screws or galvanised nails and joist hangers should be used for fixing.



### Elevated Decks

Elevated decks can be free standing or have one or more sides attached to the side of a house, wall or building.

- The joist frame to support and fix the deckboards is in turn supported by posts and beams.
- Beams are constructed from 44 x 150mm TANALITH E treated timber and posts from 75 x 100mm TANALITH E treated timber.
- Posts should be fixed at a maximum of 1800mm centres.
- Posts should be fixed in holes using a sand and cement mix.
- Once posts have set, fix beams to posts using deck screws or galvanised nails.
- The joist frame is then fixed to beams using deck screws or galvanised nails with joists at a maximum of 400mm centres.
- For increased support, use noggins between joists fixed at 90 degrees.



## Fixing the Handrails to your Deck

- The safety and beauty of your deck can be enhanced by spindles or railings.
- A post is required in each corner and at 1800mm centres. Each post is bolted to the inside of joists.
- Off cuts of joists can be used to provide additional support to subsequent decking boards which will fit around the posts to the edge of the deck.
- Cut handrails and base rails to size between the posts and assemble with spindles between base rails and handrails. A maximum distance of 100mm between spindles is recommended.
- Once assembled fix the railing assembly between the posts to the correct height. Finally fit the newel cap to each post.



## Fixing of Deckboards

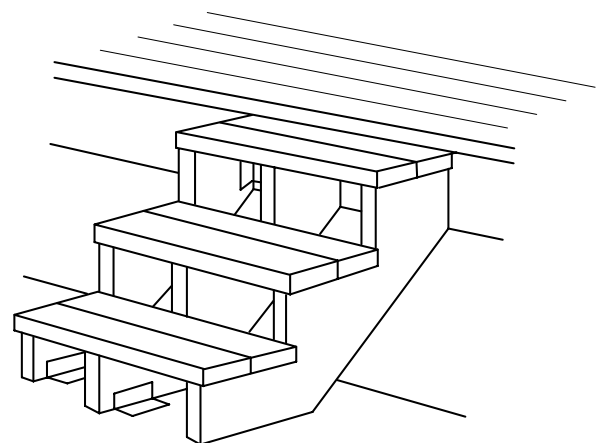
**Traditional Fixing:** Fix screws through the face of the deck into the joist frame using two screws at each joist. Ensure that each fixing is 25mm from the end and edges of the boards to reduce the risk of splitting. The boards should be spaced 6-9mm apart to allow for drainage and movement.

**Deck Ties:** Deck ties automatically space the deckboards and are completely hidden when fixed. When using deck ties you must allow for joist arrangement to be at a 90 degree angle to the finished deckboard laying pattern.

## Steps

The height and position of your deck will influence the style and position of your steps. Steps can be made from a combination of joist posts and deckboards or with pre-cut stair strings.

- Position the steps at 90 degrees to the deck at a maximum of 400mm centres.
- Fix to deck screws and joist hangers.
- At ground level fix the stair strings to paving slabs or concrete slabs for maximum stability.
- Treads to be made out of deck boards allowing 30mm overhang for each string.



# Tips for good decking



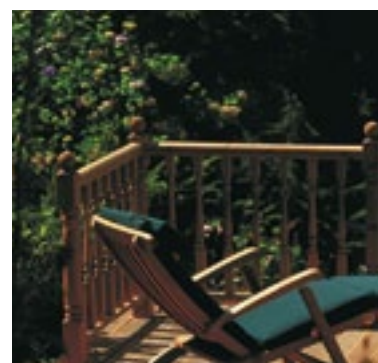
## Tips for good decking

- Materials stored on site before and during building should be **protected from rain**
- Use a **waterproof cover**
- **Plan the deck** carefully before commencing any construction work
- Spend time **preparing the proposed site**. Remove all vegetation, apply a proprietary weed killer and weed block. To prevent further growth underneath the deck we would recommend the use of a geotextile membrane.
- **Don't bridge the damp course** or cover airbricks if fixing to the side of a house.
- All fixings should be **stainless steel, hot dipped galvanised** or **coated** specifically for exterior use.
- All **cut ends and drill holes** on all timber deckboards, joists, posts and balustrades must be **treated with a suitable proprietary end seal**.
- We would recommend the use of a **balustrade system** on all decks for greater safety. Balustrades can also help deflect wind on exposed decks or on decks where you require extra privacy from neighbours.

## Balustrades

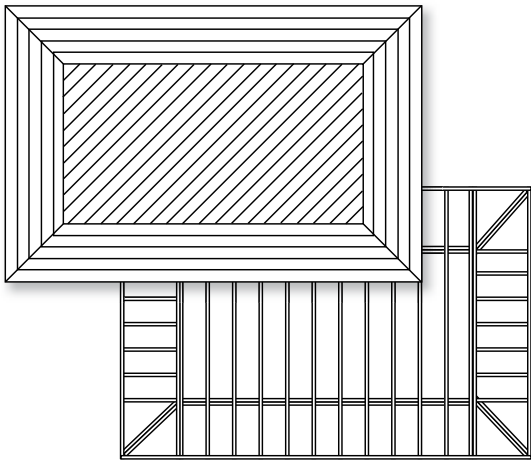


**American Style:** Straight balusters, patrice newel and chunky hand and base rails will create an American look with clean straight lines.

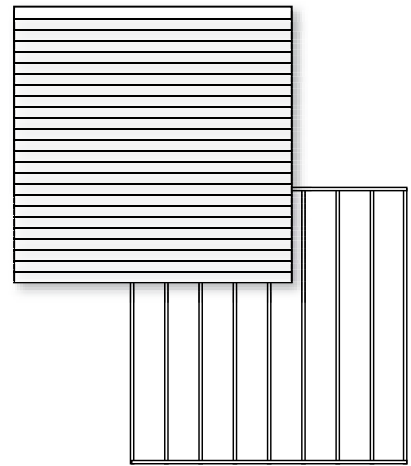


**Colonial Style:** Turned balusters and newel posts with a traditional hand and base rail creates a tranquil country style.

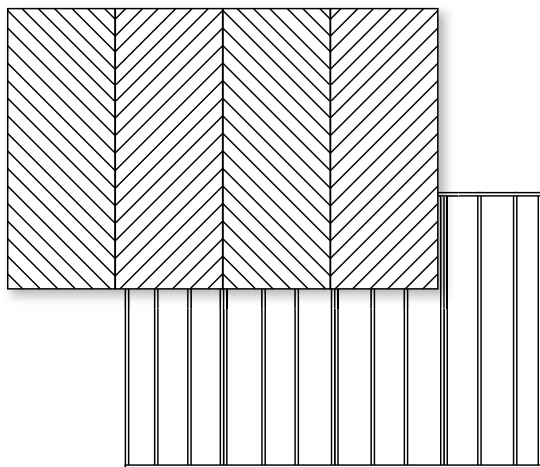
Decking patterns are often overlooked at the planning stage, but they can greatly effect the overall appearance of the finished deck. Examples of the various laying patterns are illustrated below:



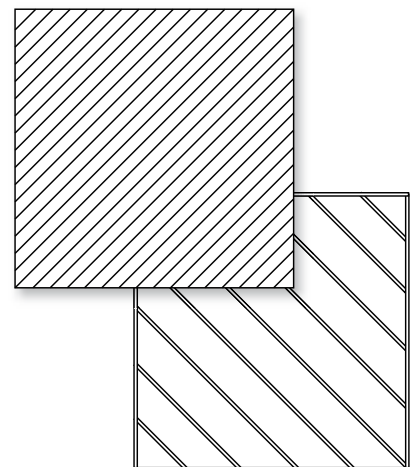
Picture Frame Pattern



Standard Pattern



Herringbone Pattern



Diagonal Pattern

# Brooks supply four main types of decking

## Brooksdeck

This is a Scandinavian pine which has been pressure treated to extend the life of the timber when it is in contact with the ground. This protects the timber against decay, the weather and insect attack. It is supplied by a PEFC approved source.

Pine decking is light green in colour and can be stained to create different looks. The decking boards are also reversible – one surface is smooth and the other is ribbed, providing an anti-slip surface, if you so desire.



## Cedar Decking

Western red cedar decking is firm but resilient underfoot, not hard and unyielding. This sound and tight knotted decking limits both the size and quality of characteristics to meet the highest buyer expectations. It is the top choice where natural beauty and lasting charm is desired. Cedar can be stained or allowed to weather to a silver grey colour.

Natural oils provide the necessary durability without any treatment.



## Balau Hardwood Decking

This is a hard, tight grained wood with extreme colour consistency. Balau is ideal for decking timber because of its high durability and natural resistance to decay. Balau is kiln dried which reduces shrinking, splitting and checking. Balau may be stained or allowed to weather naturally to a silver grey colour. Balau decking is also reversible, depending on the desired look.



## Megawood Composite

This is a polymer decking material – bonded wood that contains up to 75% wood fibres, high value polymers, suitable additives and colourants. An alternative to natural wood decking, it combines the pleasant feeling of wood as well with ease of care and sustainability. It comes in a variety of three colours and has a different design on both sides.

## Megawood Advantages

- Crack free – no dangerous splinters
- Dyed throughout – no paint coating or after treatment
- No greying like wood
- Resistant to insects and fungi
- Easy care – simply clean with water
- Slip resistant due to surface structuring
- Environmentally- friendly – no tropical wood
- Screw joint by clamp system



Brooks can supply you with all the products and tools you will need for the construction, treatment and maintenance of your deck.

We can also supply you with the necessary safety clothing you should be wearing. Our branch staff will be happy to help you with any questions you may have.

### Tool Requirements

- Spirit Level
- Knee Pads
- Shovel
- Pickaxe
- Rake
- Lump Hammer
- Variable Speed Drill
- Tape Measure
- Handsaw
- Jig Saw
- Wood and Masonry Drill Bits
- Safety Wear-Boots, Gloves & Safety Glasses

### Accessories

- Geotextile Membrane
- Decking Screws
- Galvanised Nails
- Wood Glue
- Wood Filler
- Proprietary Wood Treatment
- Joist Hangers
- Handrail Supports
- Handrail Ties