



Parkside Timber produces some of the most durable and well manufactured hardwood timber decking. All Parkside products are produced to Australian Standards as a minimum.

When purchasing and installing Parkside decking, it is important to check the installation area before determining the best practices required for installation.

Below are factors to consider when installing decking:

- Timber naturally absorbs and releases moisture depending on its environment, therefore timber performs at its best when installed in covered, dry and moisture-consistent areas.
- Ventilation is very important when installing a deck. We recommend our decking boards be installed 400mm above ground, and that adequate ventilation be provided both above and below the decks.
- Harsh or extreme weather environments can also negatively influence a timber deck. Extreme conditions include but are not limited to excessive rain, hot sun and significant winds.
- Due to it's nature, these extreme environments will almost always cause timber to expand, contract and potentially cup/warp. Parkside suggests that 65-86mm decking be used in wet and close to ground applications as these will perform better than wider decking boards in these environments.

Please assess your installation area first, understand your deck environment and realise timber will naturally react to its environment.

## On site handling

Parkside decking is packaged with plastic wrapping designed to protect the product during transportation only. Upon delivery, the product should be stored in a cool, dry area, away from the elements or well covered (tarp), and stored at least 100mm off ground by timber gluts. We do not recommend the storage of our decking product outside, exposed to weather as this may affect its integrity before installation.

## Decking installation

Parkside decking is a product designed to be installed onto bearers and joists and the standards for these products are outlined in the Australian Standard 1684: Residential Timber - Framed Construction and AS1720: Timber Structures - Design Methods.

These design methods are based around the installation of the product in a residential application, not a commercial application, therefore any commercial application may require additional design support and a change to the installation requirements.

## Installation preparation

Industry standards indicate a 10% waste factor to be considered when measuring the required decking. The surface below the timber deck should be clear of weeds, other debris and most certainly, moisture pooling. Good site preparation is essential to ensure the integrity of your deck.

It is a Parkside requirement that you gain suitable ventilation and drainage beneath the deck that prevents pooling and build up.

## Installation methods and requirements

Parkside decking installation methods are rigorous and need to be adhered to in order to ensure the integrity of the timber is maintained and the life span of the decks is maximised.

Before the installation of the decking boards, Parkside recommends all sides of the board be coated and sealed with an oil-based protectant.

In addition to this, end sealing is also required. Parkside recommends timber decks should be placed 400mm above the ground, for any decks under 400mm please refer to the paragraph where decking is used in what is classified as extreme conditions.

In this process, Parkside requires:

- Boards to be checked before installation to ensure their integrity has not been compromised during delivery or site storage; warping and fungi growth should be assessed before installation.
- Adequate ventilation to be provided to the underside of the deck. Insufficient ventilation typically leads to warping and other timber irregularities.
- Good surface drainage so water does not pool below.
- Where possible, access to be made available to support the maintenance of the timber deck.
- Residential joist span to be 450mm centre to centre.
- 3-5mm gap between boards for decking boards.
- That cutting and shaving metal objects on a timber deck be avoided as this will often result in black spotting.

## Decking in extreme conditions

Parkside does not recommend that our timber boards be placed below 400mm from the ground or in extreme conditions as previously mentioned, but there are a number of practices you can use to assist the timber's performance in this application:

- Species selection is crucial in ensuring performance of your timber deck. See the final section for species selection
- Ensure excellent drainage to prevent water/moisture from pooling.
- The use of a plastic membrane on the surface below the deck to assist drainage and prevent the pooling of moisture.
- Ensure an 8mm gap is used between boards for residential decks installed less than 400mm above ground.
- Parkside recommends the use of narrow decking boards only in low to ground and extreme situations - 65mm and 86mm wide decking boards.
- Refer to Timber Queensland's Technical Data Sheet 13 for more advice available at [www.parksidetimber.com.au](http://www.parksidetimber.com.au)



## Fixings

Before fixing and for maximum serviceability and protection against weathering, Parkside decking should be fully sealed as per specifications previously mentioned. All bolts, screws, framing anchors and other hardware are required to be hot dip galvanised or stainless steel. Electroplated fasteners are not suitable due to the early breakdown of the plating. The table below demonstrates the nail size for fixing the deck.

Each board 65mm - 86mm and over should be fixed at every joint crossing with two screws or nails. Nails or screws should be located at least 12mm from the board edges. With wider boards, it is best practice to use three screws for installation and avoid nailing wide boards.

Due to the density of Parkside's decking products, we recommend predrilling before installing screws or nails. When bullet head nails are used they should be driven flush with the surface. Do not punch and fill. Fixings within 1m of a pool or moist area should be stainless steel or monel metal.

Product	Parkside decking products (all species)
Grade	Standard and Better or Select Grade
Thickness	19mm - 22mm
Max Joist Span	450mm
Nailing Requirements	50 x 2.8 Galv Bullet Head or 50 x 2.8 Galv Dome Head Machine Driven

**Please note, it is important to regularly check and maintain fixings to ensure the performance of the decking structure.**

## Coating and oil recommendations

As previously mentioned any application of coatings should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. In addition to this, Parkside recommend oil-based products with mould inhibitors, preferably light coloured pigments, and that the oil contains as a minimum:

- 10% copper naphthenate in a light organic solvent
- 20% zinc naphthenate in a light organic solvent
- All sides of the board covered before installation
- End sealing when boards are cut, pre-installation

## Maintenance of a Parkside deck

The long-term performance and integrity of a Parkside deck is dependent on the consistent maintenance and care. Regular and effective maintenance is key, especially when the product is exposed to weather or harsh conditions.

Typically we recommend maintaining a deck every 6 - 12 months, however the frequency of maintenance is dependent on the type and quality of product used and the weather exposure of the deck. For highly exposed decks, maintenance might be required more regularly than every 6 months. **Please follow the maintenance guide of the coating manufacturer.**

Before recoating, the deck and gaps between the boards should be thoroughly cleaned, especially over the joist areas (areas where debris may build up). **Recoating should be carried out in accordance with the coating manufacturer's recommendations.**

Parkside suggests that the storage of pot plants and landscape structures direct on a deck be avoided. It is recommended these items be placed in drip dry trays and in good ventilation areas.

Where possible decks should be cleaned by broom or blower, rather than by hosing.

## Species selection

One major factor in ensuring your Parkside deck performs well in it's environment, is the choice of species. Some species are not suitable for close to ground extreme conditions while others will perform better.

For extreme weather conditions and close to ground decks, the use of Parkside Ironbark decking is the most durable option. Followed by Parkside Spotted Gum providing all installation methods are adhered to.

Parkside Karri decking is not suitable for extreme weather conditions and/or close to ground conditions. This species is a durability class 2 above ground decking species, therefore when in or close to the ground they will not perform.

## Bushfire area information

Please note other installation factors may need to be considered including the construction of timber decks in a bushfire prone area (AS3959), and Dead and Live Load requirements (AS1170).

Parkside Spotted Gum, Red Ironbark and Silvertop Ash are Bal 29 rated species.

Parkside Jarrah decking can achieve Bal 29 with use of non-combustible cladding materials and enclosing the subfloor from amber (e.g. utilising an aluminium mesh enclosure). To achieve this, please strictly adhere to the FWPA's fire rating guide at <https://www.woodsolutions.com.au/articles/construction-bushfire-prone-areas>.

**We also recommend that local council requirements be understood before installation and adhered to during installation.**

## Installing around pools or near sea water

If installing Parkside decking around pools or near sea water, it is important to note the following things:

- Timber boards need to be well coated on all four sides before installation to help minimise cupping.
- Moisture uptake by timber is likely when installing within 1.5 metres of a pool or near sea water.
- Fixings should be assessed and well maintained. Check fixing manufacturer's guides for details.

