Deck SpecRite™ Manufactured For Results.

KWILA DECKING Installation Guide

Important
This document is designed as a guide based on manufacturer recommendations. However, it is the responsibility of the homeowner or installer to determine the specific installation requirements and suitability of our decking products for their intended application.

Installation must be carried out in line with The New Zealand Building Code. Find out if there are any legal safety requirements for your build such as handrails or steps, and approach the Local Authority or Council to check whether Resource and/or Building Consent is required before you start construction. Factors including height, area, and location of the deck can impact consent requirements.

Warning
Tannin is a naturally occurring substance in timber which will leach the first few times it is exposed to moisture, staining timber, paved areas and other nearby surfaces. Black spotting can also arise from tannin reacting metal traces - please refer to Tannin Information for more details.

Considerations
Timber expands and contracts with changes in the environment, particularly when exposed to moisture. While kwila is the most stable timber on the market and movement is minimal, if your decking is to be installed in an area exposed to the elements, or next to a coastal or poolside area it is important to allow sufficient subfloor and cross-flow ventilation to help avoid moisture build up below the deck.

We recommend decking be installed 400mm from the ground with adequate gapping between boards. For decks in areas that may be subject to excessive moisture, or are low to the ground, please refer to the following section: Decking installed less than 400mm above ground, or in high moisture areas.

Safety
Always use adequate protective clothing and safety equipment.

Use care when handling decking boards. Timber varies in weight and density from board to board. For example, a 1.8m 90x19mm kwila decking board weighs around 2.6kg, and a 5.7m 140 x19mm board can weigh up to 13kg.

Handling and Storage
Use care when storing, handling and installing SpecRite decking to avoid damage.

SpecRite decking is packaged using recycled plastic wrapping, which is designed to protect the timber during transport only. Once delivered, timber should be stored in a cool, dry, non-exposed area, 100mm off the ground, either undercover or tarped, prior to installation.

Natural Variances
Kwila is a natural product and its colour can vary from yellow brown, to deep reddish brown. This variation is considered a feature of the timber.

Our kwila decking is select grade and kiln dried for a long-lasting, high-quality appearance. It is subject to natural variations and tolerances.

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Slip Rating

This product does not have a slip resistance rating in its pre-oiled condition. If slip resistance is required (e.g. decking adjacent to a pool), apply a specialised slip resistant finish.

Design Preparation

It is standard to purchase 10% more decking than your deck size to factor in wastage from offcuts.
The surface below the deck should be clear of weeds, debris and excessive moisture, with suitable ventilation and drainage factored in.

Installation Requirements

SpecRite kwila decking is designed to be installed onto bearers and joists. Please follow the standards outlined in NZS 3604: 2011 (Timber-framed buildings) and NZS 3602: 2003 (Timber and wood-based products for use in building). The guidelines in this installation guide refer to residential applications. SpecRite 19mm decking is not designed for commercial applications.

SpecRite decking comes pre-oiled which will help protect the underside of your deck. Ensure cut ends are sealed, and topcoat your deck as soon as possible following installation.

Max joist spacing - 450mm centres
Min ground clearance - 400mm*
Min distance from side or end to fixed structures - 7mm
Min distance from side edge for fixings - 12mm
Min distance from end for fixings - 12mm

We recommend allowing 400mm* of clearance below your deck to allow for adequate ventilation. In exposed areas prone to moisture build up, sub-floor drainage is recommended. Inadequate ventilation and moisture build up can cause cupping, warping and other irregularities.

Decking boards should be inspected prior to installation to ensure the product is suitable for use, as it may have been compromised during transportation or storage.

It is recommended to factor in future access to the underside of your deck to aid with maintenance and inspection.

Allow a minimum 4.5mm gap between 90mm boards, and a 7mm gap between 140mm boards.

Avoid cutting and grinding metal objects on your kwila deck, or treading garden fertiliser onto the timber. Metal traces from various sources can cause iron stain (black spotting on the timber), which can be costly to rectify.

Cutting

Tungsten carbide tipped cutting tools and high-quality drill bits are recommended for best results. Always apply decking oil to cut ends to maximise the life of your deck. Ensure appropriate eye, ear and breathing protection is used when cutting timber.

Fixings

Decking should be fixed using hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel screws - two 10g 65mm screws per joist. Screws should be pre-drilled and countersunk to avoid splitting the timber and to provide the best possible finish. Stainless steel fixings are recommended for coastal or poolside applications. We do not recommend nailing for your SpecRite kwila decking, especially when installed close to the ground.

***Decking installed less than 400mm above ground, or in high moisture areas**
A minimum ground clearance of 400mm is recommended to allow for adequate ventilation in most circumstances.

Additional underside and surface ventilation are required if the deck is installed with less than 400mm clearance or in high moisture areas. This advice also applies when sub-floor areas are lacking sufficient drainage or cross-flow ventilation to allow adequate moisture removal. In these circumstances, we recommend the following:

- Choose our narrow 90mm profile for installations subject to high moisture content or low to the ground
- Ensure excellent drainage to avoid sub-floor moisture build up
- Additional pre-oiling will help protect your timber. We recommend two coats on all six sides of your timber, followed by an additional top coat once installed.
- Increase gapping above the 5% minimum to allow additional airflow
- 10g 65mm hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel screws are recommended.

Protecting your Deck
This product has been primed with Feast Watson® Industrial Timber Oil. A single coat has been applied to all four sides and is designed to help seal and protect your timber from moisture and UV before final topcoating. To fully protect your pre-oiled timber, we recommend topcoating your deck as soon as possible following installation.

Your pre-oiled kwila can be topcoated with most water-based and oil-based finishes. When choosing a topcoat, the most suitable product is best determined by the preferred finish. To maintain or highlight the natural appearance of the timber, a transparent, lightly pigmented oil is recommended. For longer lasting protection, a high quality water-based finish can be used. To transform the colour of the timber, a semi-transparent stain will impart a deeper colour whilst allowing the timber grain to show through. Timber will naturally grey off if left unfinished.

To ensure you are completely satisfied with your chosen coating and colour, we recommend you first test the coating on a small inconspicuous area.

Step 1 - To prepare timber for topcoating, ensure the surface is clean. If required, thoroughly scrub with an oxalic acid-based timber cleaner. A high strength timber cleaner removes dirt, grease, tannin stains and other contaminants to optimise topcoat performance.

Step 2 - Allow the timber to dry and apply two coats of your chosen finish following label instructions. The coating can usually be walked on after 48 hours, but make sure your deck has dried fully before replacing furniture.

Re-oiling requirements can vary from every 6 months to every couple of years and is heavily influenced by the level of exposure of the deck and your chosen coating product (please follow the recommendations from the coating manufacturer). We recommend regularly monitoring the coated timber for signs of colour loss, dryness and weathering. Recoat the timber when it begins to show signs of dryness to help maintain its natural beauty and protection. When required, clean the surface using an oxalic acid-based timber cleaner, allow the surface to dry and recoat with one coat of your original coating, following label instructions. For a longer lasting finish, apply a second coat.

It is recommended to avoid storing pot plants and landscape structures directly on the deck as moisture can linger affecting the longevity of your deck. Trays and stands that allow airflow to circulate are recommended.

For further information on Feast Watson products contact Feast Watson Customer Service on 0800 222 687 or visit feastwatson.co.nz.

Tannin Information

Kwila's superior strength and stability are attributable to its tannin-rich properties, resulting in low shrinkage and minimal surface and end splitting. Tannin is a naturally occurring substance in timber which will leach the first few times it is exposed to moisture, staining timber, paved areas and other nearby surfaces. Objects left on the timber surface will also draw tannin out, creating surface marks. A thorough and regular hose down during the first few days will assist in flushing excess tannin away and will help minimise subsequent staining.

To speed up this process, apply a tannin and oil remover product such as Intergrain UltraPrep Tannin And Oil Remover prior to final topcoating, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Avoid cutting or grinding metal objects over your deck. This can cause black spotting known as iron stain, which is caused by tannins reacting with metals and can be costly to rectify. Iron stain can also arise from trace metals in water or garden fertiliser on footwear coming into contact with the timber. Iron stain is a natural occurrence and is not considered a product fault.