This guide will help you when choosing the type of fixings to use, where to place the fixings and other practical recommendations – depending on the type of deck board you are using.
**STEP 1. SPACING BETWEEN JOISTS**
When spacing your joist structure, the maximum gap between joists (from centre to centre) should be no more than 400mm.

*NOTE: SPACING RECOMMENDED IS FOR DOMESTIC OR LIGHT COMMERCIAL USE, IF IN ANY DOUBT SEEK FURTHER PROFESSIONAL HELP.*

**STEP 2. MINIMUM GAP AROUND PERIMETER**
When decking up to buildings or door sills, install the joist structure and deck boards so they are clear of the building by at least 10mm and always below the damp course. This will allow for any expansion.

**STEP 3. AVOID WATER POOLING**
This is down to your planning and preparation of the joist perimeter structure. Using a simple spacer acts as an effective guide and a 2mm fall in gradient of the joist in every metre is sufficient to ensure the rain water runs away and prevents any pooling, reducing maintenance too.

*NOTE: THE FALL SHOULD RUN IN LINE WITH THE GROOVES ON THE DECK BOARDS TO AID RUN OFF.*

**STEP 4. DECK BOARD FIXINGS**
4.5 x 63mm stainless steel or coated deck screws.

**STEP 5. PILOT HOLES**
Drilling a pilot hole before screwing down is recommended, alternatively use a self-countersinking screw.

**STEP 6. FIXING DOWN TIMBER DECK BOARDS**
Fix the boards down securely with two fixings per joist. Screws will provide a more secure fixing than nails. To avoid the potential for the timber to split:

A. Position the fixing at least 15mm from end of deck board.
B. Position the fixing at least 20mm from the edge of the deck board.

**STEP 8. JOINING TWO BOARDS IN A RUN**
When joining two cut deck boards together in a run, fix with screws 15mm from the end of each board, at an angle to ensure secure fixing into the joists below.

*NOTE: WHERE MORE THAN TWO BOARDS ARE FIXED IN A RUN, A MINIMUM 6mm GAP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUR TIMBER BOARDS.*

**STEP 9. PROTECTING YOUR TIMBER DECK**
Ensure any cut timber or drilled holes are treated with a suitable, high-quality timber preservative. A thorough coat of treatment only takes a moment and will prolong the life of the deck. This procedure is often a condition reflected in the product’s guarantee, so is worth following.

**INSTALLATION SUMMARY FOR TIMBER DECKING**
- Max. joist centres: 400
- Spacing between boards: 5-6mm
- Gap around perimeter: 10mm
- Fall: 2 in 1000mm
- Fixing type: 4.5 x 63mm
- Stainless Steel or coated deck screws
- Pilot holes: yes
- Fixing points: Minimum 15mm from end and minimum 20mm from edge
- Fixing detail: 2 per joist through face of board

*NOTE: WHERE MORE THAN TWO BOARDS ARE FIXED IN A RUN, A MIN 6MM GAP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUR TIMBER BOARDS.*

View our decking installation video online: metsawood.com/uk/tools/installation-videos

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