



Installation Guide

Composite decking from
the timber experts

**MADE IN
BRITAIN** 

Find out more at
alchemywpc.co.uk





Installation Guidelines

Thanks for choosing Alchemy wood composite decking. Your lovely new deck will give you years of hassle-free enjoyment simply by following our few key installation guidelines.

A little warning, however: failure to work to this guidance will invalidate your product performance warranty.

- ⇒ Composite decking is not the same as timber decking and must be treated differently.
- ⇒ Prior to installation all deck boards must be conditioned. The recommended time-period for conditioning is 24 hours. Remember that deck boards should be unpacked and laid out side by side on the substructure to condition properly.
- ⇒ Use only the recommended fixings required (starter clips, hidden fixings, screws).
- ⇒ Do not over tighten the hidden fixing screws.
- ⇒ Where deck boards butt up together at the ends, individual hidden fixings must be used for each board (one clip across 2 board ends is not correct).
- ⇒ Always leave an expansion gap at board ends. Refer to the expansion table included within the hidden deck fastener instructions.
- ⇒ The correct maximum span, or less must always be used.
- ⇒ Decked surface must have a minimum 2° slope for surface water drainage.
- ⇒ A minimum of 50mm free air space must be available between the bottom of the deck boards and the ground surface.
- ⇒ Where the deck is installed in a closed area, ventilation to support the required free air flow must be introduced.

The Tools you'll Need for the Job

Don't forget your drill and driver bits!



Hand Drill



Chop Saw



Pencil



Tape Measure



Screwdriver



Safety Gloves



Spirit Level



Safety Goggles



Hand Saw

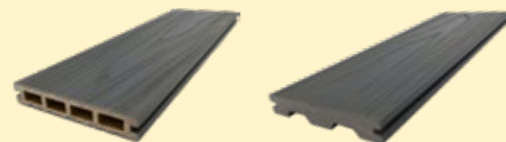


Dust Mask

Trims & Fixings

Hidden fixings, starter clips and colour coded screws are available in individual packs to make your deck as smooth and seamless as possible.

Habitat+ and Urban Deck Boards



Habitat+ Deck Board

Urban Capped Deck Board

Habitat+ Trims



Skirting Trim
15mm x 100mm

Habitat+ and Urban Fixings



Starter Clips
(packs of 25)

S.S. Screws and
Narrow Driver Bit

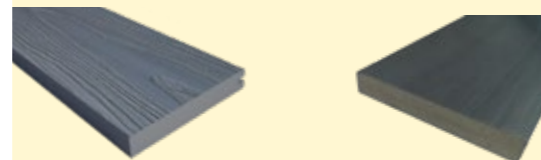


Hidden Fixing Clips
(packs of 100)



Colour Coded Trim
Fixings (packs of 25)

Urban Trims



Edge Deck Board
22mm x 138mm

Skirting Trim
15mm x 100mm

Key Points to Consider

- ⇒ Ensure that there is adequate air-flow both between the bottom of the deck boards and the ground and between the substructure joists.
- ⇒ The maximum span between joist centres is 400mm for Habitat+ and 400mm for Urban. If using Urban boards in a commercial or high foot fall area, joist centres should be 300mm.
- ⇒ Each deck board must rest fully upon a minimum of 3 joists.
- ⇒ Ensure a 10mm perimeter expansion gap.
- ⇒ Ensure that every deck board is cut square in both vertical and horizontal directions to enable the boards to locate accurately with the fixings and to create a neat joint.

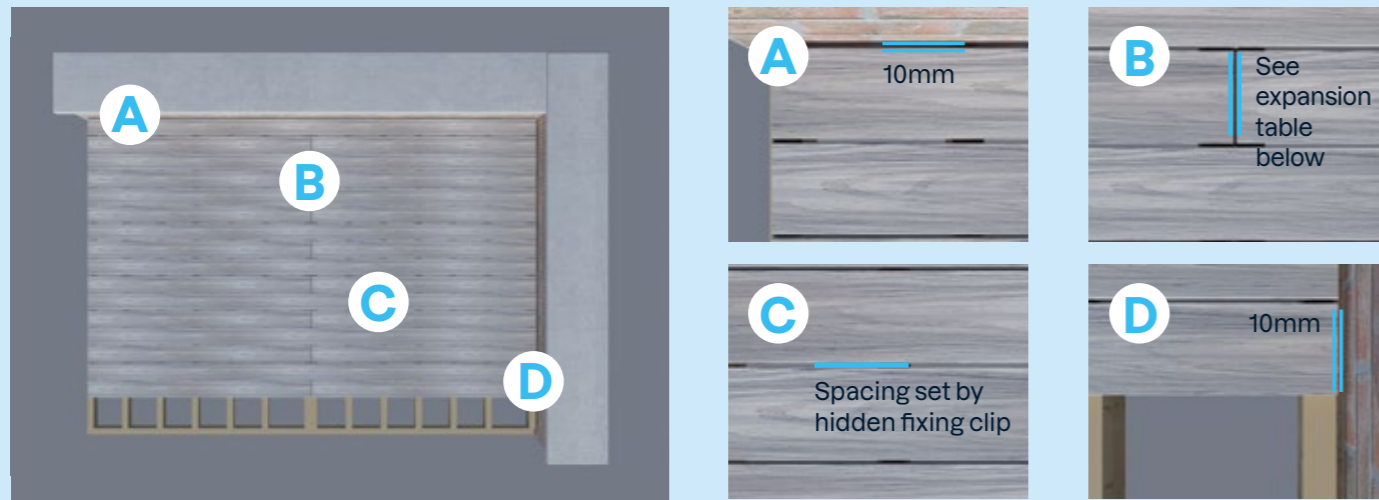
Do not fit boards until conditioned

Before you start, there are 4 golden rules:

- 01** Habitat+ and Urban deck boards should always be stored flat.
- 02** Before fitting, condition all deck boards by laying them side by side on the substructure for 24hrs.
- 03** Trim all boards at both ends to ensure all are the same length and cut square.
- 04** Only install decking in temperatures above 0°C.

Expansion

Some simple spacing rules for Habitat+ and Urban Decking.



01 Ensure an expansion gap at board ends.



02 10mm between the wall and deck board.



03 Habitat + Skirt Trim can be used to finish the deck. Fix with two screws at 400mm centres. Drill pilot holes before screwing.

Expansion Table

Recommended minimum gap in mm between board ends and varying board lengths

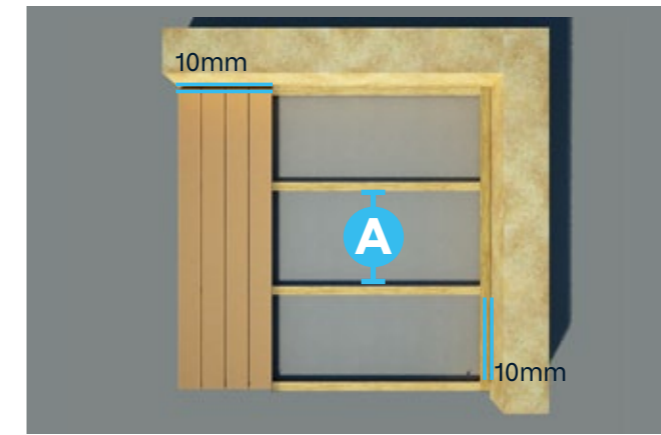
	Air temperature at time of fitting					
	5°	10°	15°	20°	25°	30°
1m Board	5	2	2	2	2	2
2.4m Board	5	4	4	4	4	4
3m Board	5	5	5	4	4	4
3.6m Board	7	7	5	5	4	4

All decking materials exhibit expansion and contraction over a range of temperatures. The table above gives recommended spacing between board ends based on board length and anticipated working temperature range at time of installation.

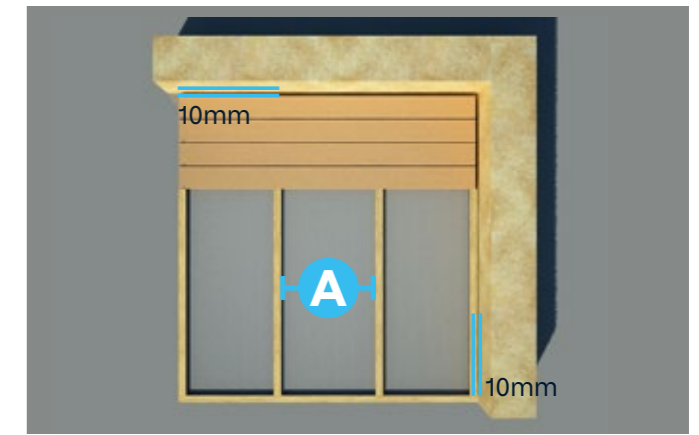
Preparation of Installation

Preparation is key. Here's how to get your Habitat+ and Urban decking ready for installation.

Laying the decking perpendicular to the wall



Choose the decking design required, whether it is vertical, horizontal or the herringbone/chevron design. A min of 50mm free air space must be available between the bottom of the deck boards and the ground surface.

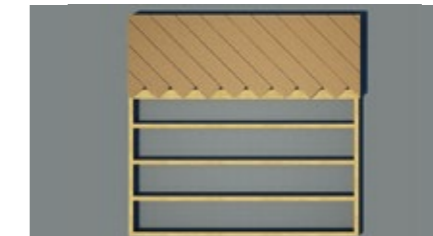


A 400mm max for Habitat+ hollow boards.
400mm max for Urban Residential project
300mm max for Urban Commercial project

Decide which orientation the decking will lay

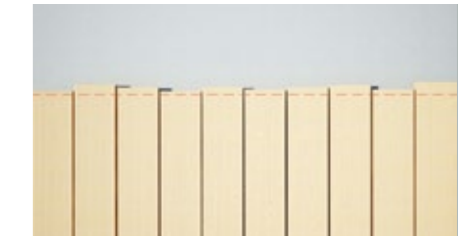


Each board should be supported by 3 joists. Ensure a slight fall of 2° to aid water run off.



For elevated decks please ensure compliance with Building Regulations regarding structural calculations.

Condition boards prior to use



Prior to installation the deck boards, edge boards and edge skirts must be conditioned. Remove from their packaging and lay side by side 24hrs prior to fitting. Then trim to ensure they are all the same length.

Material Storage and Conditioning

Habitat+ and Urban deck boards should always be stored flat. Prior to fitting, condition all deck boards by laying them side by side on the substructure by 24hrs. Then trim all boards at both ends to ensure all are the same length and cut square. Only install decking in temperatures above 0°C.

Habitat+ Deck Installation

Now for the exciting part! It's time to install your new decking. But before you can relax, stick the BBQ on and - maybe - catch a few rays of sun, there are just 8 simple steps you'll need to follow.



Fix starter clip onto decking joist with screw, allowing first deck board to be installed.

- A** Fixing Screw
- B** Starter Clip



Tilt first deck board so that the leg of the deck locates underneath the lip of the perimeter starter clip.



On every joist, position a hidden fixing clip into the groove of the first board and screw into position but do not tighten.

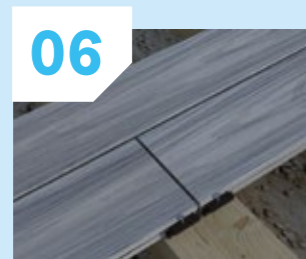


Slide the next deck board into position, locating the hidden fixing clip into its groove. This will set the gap between each deck board. Tighten the hidden fixing clip - but do not over tighten, use a low speed high torque setting on your electric screwdriver. Duplicate this step for every additional board.

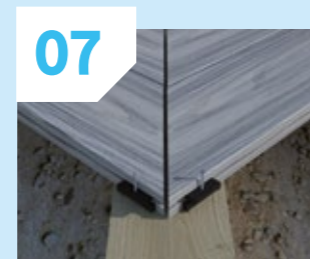


DO NOT over tighten the hidden fixing clip.

- A** Fixing Clips
- B** Joist
- C** See expansion table



Where board ends meet allow an expansion gap (see expansion table) fit a second supporting noggin and fit a hidden fixing clip at the end of each board.



When fitting two boards at 90° ensure a minimum expansion gap of 5mm where the boards meet. Ensure hidden fixing clips are used at both board ends.



The starter clip can also be used as a finishing clip. Install the starter clip to the end of the last joint, slide the deck board between the last clip and the finishing clip.

Completing your Habitat+ Deck

Nearly there! Just some final finishing touches. Completing your Habitat+ deck is as easy as 1, 2, 3. We can practically hear the sausages starting to sizzle...



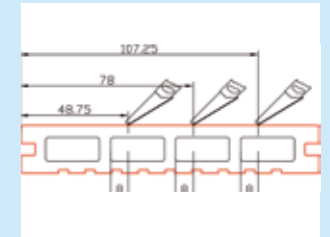
Two pilot holes should be drilled at every joist, leaving a gap of at least 50mm from both the beginning and the end of the trim.



Fix the Habitat+ skirt trim the over Habitat+ deck board edges at the joist ends. Leave a 50mm gap between ground and the trim to aid airflow.



Use a colour coded screw for each of the pre-drilled holes.



When finishing a deck, an "odd sized" deck board may be required, cut the deck board to fit. You must allow the 8mm overhang in order to locate fully within the starter clip.



Urban Deck Installation

It's time for your Urban decking to be brought to life. But just before you prepare the sun lounger and whip up your famous potato salad, there are 8 simple steps you'll need to follow.



Fix starter clip onto decking joist with screw, allowing first deck board to be installed.

- A Fixing Screw
- B Starter Clip



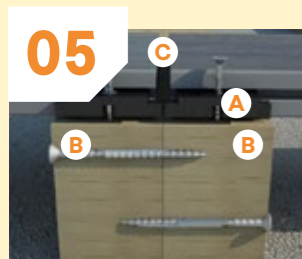
Tilt first deck board so that the leg of the deck locates underneath the lip of the perimeter starter clip.



On every joist, position a hidden fixing clip into the groove of the first board and screw into position but do not tighten.



Slide the next deck board into position, locating the hidden fixing clip into its groove. This will set the gap between each deck board. Tighten the hidden fixing clip - but do not over tighten, use a low speed high torque setting on your electric screwdriver. Duplicate this step for every additional board.

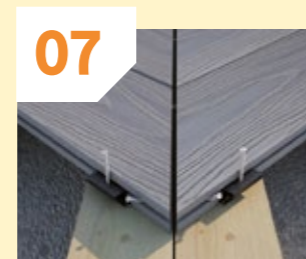


DO NOT over tighten the hidden fixing clip.

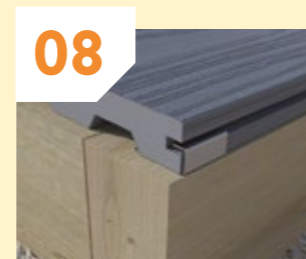
- A Fixing Clips
- B Joist
- C See expansion table



Where board ends meet allow an expansion gap (see expansion table) fit a second supporting noggin and fit a hidden fixing clip at the end of each board.



When fitting two boards at 90° ensure a minimum expansion gap of 5mm where the boards meet. Ensure hidden fixing clips are used at both board ends.



The starter clip can also be used as a finishing clip. Install the starter clip to the end of the last joint, slide the deck board between the last clip and the finishing clip.

Completing your Urban Deck

Great, you've come this far. The end is nigh and the burgers are in sight! Here are the finishing touches to complete your long-lasting Urban deck.



Always use the recommended hidden fixing clips. At the end of the run, an Urban edge board can be used. Fix using a hidden fixing clip and don't over tighten then face fix this board only, using the colour coded screws.



When using the colour coded screws, pre-drill pilot holes first, using a 2mm drill. Ensure pilot holes are no less than 25mm from each edge. Edge boards should overhang the joist by 15mm to cloak the Urban skirting if being used.



Ensure the colour coded screws are screwed into the pilot holes at 90° with two screws at every joist. Once screwed in place, the head should be flush with the deck surface.



Ensure the Urban deck boards are cut square (see note on conditioning). All board ends should be cut 10mm back from the joist edge when using an Urban skirt trim.



When fitting an Urban skirt trim colour coded screws must be used.



Use two colour coded screws at every joist.



When using an Urban skirt trim across deck board ends, ensure the square edge is in line with the top surface of the Urban deck boards, check there is a 10mm gap between board ends and the vertical edge board.



Fix Urban skirt trim underneath the Urban edge board at the joist ends. Leave a 50mm gap between ground and the Urban skirt trim to aid airflow. Use two colour coded screws at every joist.



 0800 587 8887  hello@alchemywpc.co.uk

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