

Decking, Storage, Handling & Installation Guidelines



Stagwood's Hardwood Decking

Our range offers the ultimate in natural timber decking with a wide range of sizes, textures and tones to suit any design style.

Outdoor decking can have a transformational effect on our homes, expanding a living space by bringing the outdoors in or creating the ideal alfresco entertaining area.

On-Site Storage & Handling

Timber decking packs are wrapped in plastic to protect them during transport. Once delivered to site, the product should be installed within 48 hours.

If installation cannot occur within this timeframe, the decking must be stored in a cool, dry, and undercover location.

Decking boards should be stacked off the ground on evenly sized bearer supports, positioned at least 75–100 mm above ground level and spaced at maximum 600 mm intervals.

City Timber does not recommend leaving Stagwood decking fully exposed to the elements prior to installation, as this may result in dimensional changes that can lead to installation issues. For pre-coated decking, exposure to the elements before installation may also damage the coating.

Decking and Structural Compliance

It is the responsibility of the builder or installer to ensure that the decking size Australian Standards.

City Timber Stagwood decking is manufactured in accordance with the requirements of Australian Standard AS 1684 (Residential Timber-Framed Construction) and AS 1720 (Timber Structures – Design Methods).

Bushfire Compliance

Always check with your local authority to confirm whether your site is subject to the requirements of Australian Standard AS 3959 (Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-Prone Areas).

Stagwood (Howard Sawmill) proudly complies with the requirements of AS 4707 Chain of Custody for Forest Based Products. All information is correct at time of printing but may be subject to change. Please check with your account manager or email info@citytimber.com.au





Installation Checklist & Requirements

Ventilation and Drainage:

Proper ventilation and drainage are critical for the performance and longevity of hardwood and softwood decking.

As decking projects vary in height and design, ventilation must be assessed to ensure adequate airflow beneath the structure. This allows moisture to dissipate, particularly during periods of consistent rainfall.

City Timber recommends maintaining a minimum clearance of **400mm from ground level to the underside of the decking**. Reduced clearance can restrict airflow and may lead to cupping, warping, expansion, and in severe cases, twisting of boards.

In regions prone to heavy rainfall or extreme weather conditions, ventilation and ground drainage become even more important. Water pooling must be avoided by ensuring:

- Adequate fall or slope away from the structure
- Free-draining ground conditions (e.g. gravel or crushed rock)
- No obstructions blocking crossflow ventilation

Recommended Spacing Between Decking Boards:

Seasonal expansion and contraction must be considered, along with ventilation and water drainage:

- For decking boards up to **90mm wide**, maintain a **minimum 5mm gap** between boards
- For decking boards up to **140mm wide**, maintain a **minimum 8mm gap** between boards
- Decking installed parallel to walls or fixed structures must have a **minimum 10mm gap** to allow for expansion and airflow

Additional considerations:

- Spacing should be checked at the time of installation, as timber moisture content can affect final board width
- In wet or high-humidity environments, slightly larger gaps may be required to allow for expansion and drainage
- Ensure gaps remain consistent along the full length of the boards to prevent water pooling
- Do not install boards tightly together, as this can restrict airflow and lead to swelling, cupping, or long-term damage

Fixings

Decking screws should ideally be **stainless steel Grade 304** for inland applications, or **Grade 316** where the decking is installed in coastal areas, near saltwater, or exposed to chlorinated environments.

Alternative fasteners that meet **Class 3 corrosion resistance** standards may also be suitable, depending on exposure conditions.

Note: Electroplated fixings are not recommended, as the coating can deteriorate quickly, leading to corrosion and premature failure.



Fixing requirements:

- For decking up to **20mm thick**, use a minimum **50mm screw length**
- Boards between **65mm and 140mm wide** require **two screws at each joist**
- Maintain a minimum **12mm edge distance** for all fixings
- Install screws **flush with the decking surface**
- Pre-drilling is recommended, particularly for hardwoods, to prevent splitting and ensure accuracy
- Countersinking may be required depending on timber density and screw type

Additional considerations:

- Use fixings compatible with **treated timber** to prevent corrosion
- Ensure consistent screw alignment for structural integrity and appearance
- Avoid fixing too close to board ends to reduce the risk of splitting

Coatings & Maintenance

Steel, iron, or other metal particles must not come into contact with the decking surface, as they can become embedded in the timber before or after coating. Any contamination should be removed immediately.

Metal particles can react with natural tannins in the presence of moisture, causing dark stains that are difficult to remove. If staining occurs, an oxalic acid solution may be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Surface preparation:

- Hardwood decking is typically supplied with a smooth, dressed finish, which can limit coating adhesion
- Lightly sand the exposed surface using **80-grit sandpaper** to improve coating bond
- Ensure the deck is clean, dry, and free of dust, oils, and contaminants prior to coating
- City Timber can provide pre-sanding services to improve coating performance where required.

Coating application:

- Apply coating to all exposed surfaces, including board edges and ends where possible, to reduce moisture ingress
- Follow the coating manufacturer's instructions for application rates, drying times, and number of coats
- Avoid coating in extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct sunlight where possible

Performance & maintenance:

All external clear or natural coatings will alter the appearance of the timber and typically require **recoating every 8-12 months**, depending on exposure

Pigmented coatings generally provide **longer maintenance intervals** due to increased UV protection

Regular cleaning and inspection are recommended to maintain appearance and performance

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