

# ULTRASHIELD COMPOSITE DECKING



## QUICK GUIDE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### PLEASE READ FULL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING. DOWNLOAD AT WWW.WRG.IE

#### **Planning, Location and Design**

It important to look at the area you are going to build the deck and consider the suitability of the location, south facing is best. Its important that the area picked is free draining. When designing your deck you must allow for water to drain freely off the deck. There needs to be a fall of 2% along the board length built into your plans.

#### Site conditions, Drainage and Ventilation

The site should be free draining, all topsoil/subsoil should be removed and replaced with at least 200mm of clean stone as the soil will retain a high level of moisture if it is left under your deck. Ventilation and drainage are very important for the underside of the deck.

#### **Substructure**

The layout of the substructure is important to get correct, please ensure the sub structure has recommended falls built into it. It is important to fully support the substructure and advice should be taken from an engineer if there are any doubts or concerns about this. Minimum clearance from the ground should be 100mm. The joists should be spaced at 400mm centres for residential and 300mm centres for commercial.

#### Fitting the boards

Expansion provision is one of the most important items to consider with composite decking as it will naturally expand and contract. Allow 5mm between short board ends and 10mm around perimeter edges. Starter/

end clips should be used for the first & last row. Each normal fixing centre should have a regular clip. Each board should have a locking clip with teeth fixed to it close to the mid point.



If you need to screw fix through the composite, a pilot hole must be drilled first which is slightly wider to allow for the composite to expand.

When finishing the deck, please ensure to provide ventilation for the under structure of the deck. 2 Points of ventilation should be provided on opposite sides if possible. Areas walled in on all sides are not suitable for deck installation unless ventilation through the walls is provided for the under carriage.

Please spend time to read the full instructions which can be downloaded from our website.



*If you need any more help or guidance please contact* **T** 041 686 1000 **E** sales@wrg.ie **W** www.wrg.ie



### KEY POINTS ON HOW TO FIT YOUR COMPOSITE DECKING CORRECTLY.

To help you avoid installation errors, we have highlighted potential issues that can occur if installation guidelines are not followed correctly. Please take time to read these points as they will help you understand the importance of following the installation guidelines.

#### What happens if I leave soil under my deck area?

The soil will retain a lot of moisture and this will affect your decks performance. You need to remove the soil and then stone the area below your deck. You also need to ensure the area is free draining. If your deck is being raised by more than 1m and the area is being left completely open underneath the ground type is less important.

#### What happens if water pools under my deck?

Similar to the reasons mentioned above for soil, it will have a negative affect on your substructure and deck boards performance. If in a balcony area, it may be a sign that there may be a blocked drain.

#### What happens if I fit my deck flat with no fall?

If you fit your deck flat, the water will not be able to drain off your deck boards easily and your deck will remain wet for much longer periods after it rains. This will cause your deck to catch more dirt and will also encourage over time mould growth to develop.

## What happens if I fit my deck with north or east facing orientation?

Your deck will get much less sun light and will be more prone to being damp and wet for longer. If you are fitting in a north facing area, your deck will require more regular cleaning.

## What happens if I don't provide ventilation under my deck?

The area under your deck will become damp and this may cause your substructure to rot or corrode over time, the decking will also expand and contract a lot more as the excess moisture will pass into the decking boards. Your substructure therefore needs ventilation for 2 reasons.

We hope the above helps you understand why getting your deck installation correct is the key to you having a great outdoor area to enjoy.

# What happens if I don't leave expansion gap of 5mm at board ends or 10mm around perimeter walls?

Composite decking will expand and contract as the climate changes. If there is no room for the boards to expand, they will push against each other or the wall and eventually they will develop cracks.

## What happens if I don't use one locking clip per board that is provided in the installation kit?

The boards may gradually slide along the normal clips and leave a big gap at one end. The teeth on the locking clip help control the boards movement, it is vital that one clip with teeth catches each board close to its mid-point.

## What happens if I screwfix other items through the deck boards?

This will create a pressure point and the boards may crack over time as there may not be enough expansion room. Handrail systems should always be fixed to the substructure and not through the deck boards.

#### What happens if I don't clean my deck?

Your deck will remain fine in the short term but over time the deck will collect dirt and pollen and eventually as the deck gets dirtier there will be some green or black mould growth. Your deck never needs to be painted or sealed but it is important to have a cleaning programme.

Please ensure to read the directions overleaf and visit our website to download full installation instructions which should be read fully.



Scan to view or visit www.wrg.ie

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