

HOW TO BUILD A DECKING FRAME



The key to constructing firm and long lasting decking is in building the frame correctly.

Building the decking frame

The best way to avoid errors when building your sub-frame is to lay the pieces out in your garden as they will be constructed. First, lay out the outer joists, remembering to allow for overlapping at the corners. Then cut your inner joists to the right size and position them inside the frame. The inner joists need to be laid in the opposite direction in which the decking boards are to run in order to allow them to be attached securely.

The inner joists should be no more than 4 meters apart to avoid contravening planning laws. Use a tape measure to mark 4 meters intervals along your outer joists, marking both side of the frame to ensure that the inner joists are level.

You should the check that your decking frame is square by measuring diagonally and ensuring that the two measurements are the same. Once you are happy, then you can start screwing the decking frame together, starting with the outer joists and use countersunk coach screws.

Building the decking frame on wet ground

You may notice that some areas of your garden are prone to damp and/or water-logging, in which case you should raise you decking off the ground using concrete clocks to prevent wood rot.

Once your site has been cleared, dig a series of small holes 15cm square by 15cm deep around the edge of the deck. These should be spaced at one meter apart.

Fill each hole with concrete, allowing for 6cm of concrete to project out of the hole. Before the concrete dries, level off the top of the concrete blocks.

Once the concrete blocks are fully dried, cover the area where your decking will be sitting with a building membrane, and cut around the concrete blocks to allow them to be exposed. Keep the cut-outs ready to place on top of the posts when you place the decking frame. Cover the building membrane with gravel to helps prevent weeds from growing through.