



WHARFDECK Information Sheet – July 2011

Wharfdeck is the product name for maxi-decking produced by Urban Salvage in a 135x32mm size. It is available in a choice of species - Classes 1 & 2 Durability - which are all recommended where ground clearance exceeds 300mm. In excavations for ground level platforms or for close-to-ground installations, Class 1 Durability species are advised.

- Recommended spacing of boards is 5mm.
- Use waterproof capping over hardwood or softwood joists. Plastic, malthoid or galvanized cap.
- We recommend (and stock) 75mm bugle-head galvanized screws with a hex-drive rebate as the preferred method of fixing. They look good and hold well. If specifications require you to use stainless steel, then grade 304 screws are stronger, but grade 316 are better in salt-water environments.
- Boards require two screws per joist.
- Recommended span centres are 600mm - but 800mm is allowed for residential projects.
- Care must be taken to countersink screwheads by no more than 2mm below timber surface to anticipate shrinkage, but not to allow pooling of rainwater.

IMPORTANT

- Screws require pilot-drilling of 5mm or to gauge in **Wharfdeck** - and in joist to a depth of 20mm. Do not attempt to self-tap fixings as this will cause screws to break or fatigue - as well as to deviate from true vertical.

SUITABILITY

- Wide timber boards are susceptible to surface cupping in an exposed situation. Avoid 135mm boards that are only 19mm thick as they will certainly surface-cup in the open, regardless of species or fixing method. These are suitable for covered areas if oiled.
- **Wharfdeck** is designed to minimize cupping and shrinkage because it has a section size that is balanced and because it is kiln-seasoned.
- Minor movement in surface, edge deflection, some shrinkage of board and fine surface checks should be expected in any decking application. It is the most exposed and demanding application for timber in residential building practice.

OILING FOR DECKS

- Light penetrating oils that are absorbed by timber and contain anti-fungal agents are the best treatment for decks. Although **Wharfdeck** cannot absorb heavy applications of oil in a single coat, multiple applications are possible and recommended.
- Decks should be surface-oiled when they look 'thirsty' - not oiled for colour retention.
- Use oils rather than coatings that form a skin. These are a poor option and will require constant maintenance as they tend to flake off over time, leaving deck unprotected. Timber wants to 'silver' or grey-off in the outdoors as a natural response to UV light. Allow it to do so.
- Decking oils containing tint (including 'natural' = light honey-brown tint) will always leave dull cacky residues after the gloss has worn off.
- We recommend the penetrating decking oil **Cutek** and supply it in a range of can sizes in untinted clear. For close-to-ground installations, oil boards on both faces prior to fixing.
- Other good decking oils include **Deck-Doc**, **Ali's Oil**, and **Aussie Clear**. These have an organic oil base with anti-fungal agents added.