



Wharfdeck Information Sheet - September 2015

Wharfdeck is the product name for maxi-decking produced by Urban Salvage in a 135x32mm size. It is available in a choice of durable species which are all recommended where ground clearance exceeds 400mm. In excavations for ground level platforms or for close-to-ground installations, Class 1 Durability species are advised.

- Recommended spacing of boards is 7-8mm in elevated decks.
- The spacing should be increased to 10mm minimum for ground-level decks and decks installed on battens over concrete. Without cross-flow ventilation on the underside, decking can swell, edges can touch and drainage is inhibited.
- Use waterproof capping over hardwood or softwood joists - Plastic, malthoid or galvanized cap.
- We recommend 75mm bugle-head Wurth screws with a star-drive rebate as the preferred method of fixing. They look good and hold well. Boards require two screws per joist.
- Recommended span centres are 600mm - but 800mm is allowed for residential projects. If joists are set at 450mm centres then boards can be fixed every second joist to reduce number of screwheads showing.
- 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. As a rule of thumb, do not exceed the ratio of 5:1 in width of board to thickness - since decking boards that exceed this will surface-cup in open weather, regardless of species or fixing method.
- The section size of **Wharfdeck** is designed to minimize cupping and shrinkage because it is balanced and because the timber 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 above-ground 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 dry and '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. It will not affect its longevity if you allow it to do so.
- All timbers leach tannins when newly-installed. Oiling boards will reduce the rate of leaching - but will not prevent it. Tannins can be dark or milky-tea brown depending on species.
- Decking oils containing tint will replace natural colour in decking if retaining even fake colour outdoors is important to you - but tints may leave dull powdery residues after the gloss has worn off.
- We recommend the penetrating decking oils Sceneys (boiled linseed oil) and **Deck-Doc** (lanolin oil) and supply them in a range of can sizes in clear untinted oil. For close-to-ground installations, oil boards on both faces prior to fixing.