

Installing Composite Decking

At New Wave Flooring, we provide a wide range of composite decking [options](#), we also provide a guide to assist with the installation of your composite decking, please find below:

1 Handling

Compared with timber decking, composite decking has a higher specific density and is heavier. Please be careful when transporting and handling composite decking.

When storing and stacking composite decking prior to installation, be sure to place on a flat surface.

Distance between Joists

Preparation is the key to any successful composite decking installation. You need to create a solid platform for the decking boards to be attached to using the clips and screws provided. To do this you will need to dig holes for the stumps, attach the bearers to the stumps and then attach joists to these bearers in order to have a solid base for the composite decking boards to be attached to.

We recommend for our 138mm x 23mm **hollow** composite decking boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **400mm**.

We recommend for our 138mm x 23mm **solid** composite decking boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **450mm**.

We recommend for our 140mm x 20mm **solid** composite decking boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **450mm**.

We recommend for our 140mm x 23mm **solid** composite decking boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **450mm**.

We recommend for our 88mm x 23mm **solid** composite boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **450mm**.

We recommend for our 120mm x 20mm **hollow** composite decking boards that the distance between each joist be no more than **250mm**.

2 Tools

Standard carpentry tools will be required such as; power saw, string lines, level, screwdriver, hammer, drill, post hole digging tools etc will be required.



3 Preparing the foundation

A solid foundation for the successful installation of any of our composite decking boards is vital.

Using a string line (or other device) mark out the desired positions for the holes for the stumps, dig the holes and set the stumps in a concrete footing in preparation for the bearers to be attached. It may be appropriate to allow 24 hours for the concrete footings to cure.

4 Joists

Once you have constructed the sub floor bearers you need to attach joists ensuring the distance between the joists adheres to the guide above depending upon which type of composite decking board you have chosen. Screws or fixings used in the installation should be of zinc, stainless steel or galvanised variety to ensure they do not rust.

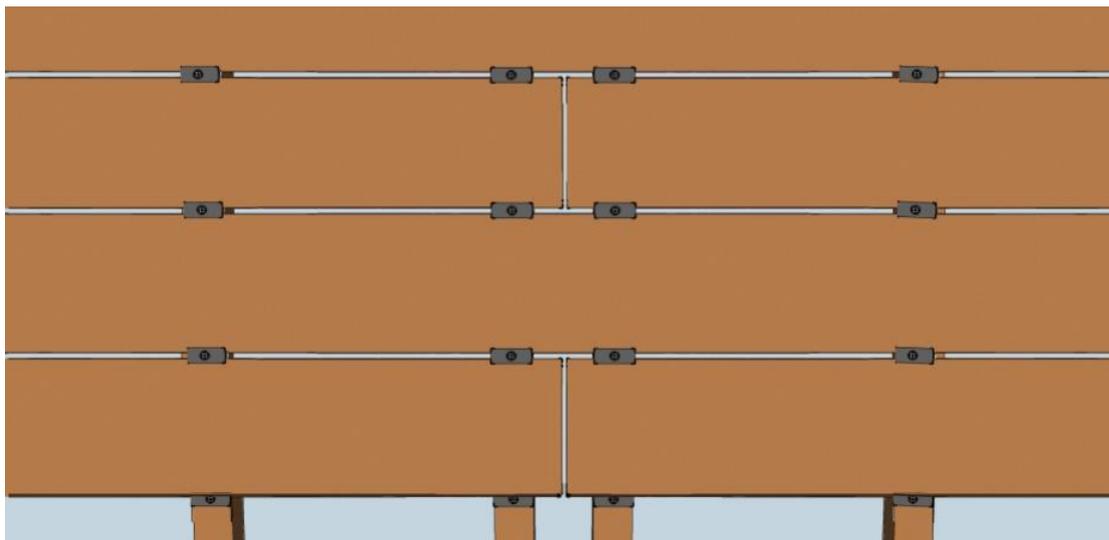
Please note; composite decking is not suitable to use as structural components for any buildings. Do not fix composite decking directly on any solid surface or water-tight system, such as concrete, rooftop or balcony, etc.

5 Allowing for Thermal Expansion (Gapping)

You must leave enough gap when installing composite decking boards to allow for thermal expansion and contraction. This is necessary not only when laying the boards end to end but also between the boards. End-to-end, width-to-width and end-to-width. Gapping is necessary to allow for drainage and the slight thermal expansion and contraction of composite decking boards.

- Width-to-Width: The general width-to width gapping is 2-5mm.the gapping in-between decking by clip is determined by the clip size.
- End-to-End: The general end-to-end gap is determined by a number of factors, the length of the composite decking boards being installed, the temperature at installation, the co-efficient of thermal expansion/contraction, the highest temperature expected during the year and whether the boards are exposed to full sun and/or shade. Expansion could be as much as 10mm at either end of the decking board depending upon the factors mentioned above.
- End-to-Width: The general end-to-width gap is determined by a number of factors, the length of the composite decking boards being installed adjacent to a longitudinal composite decking board, the temperature at installation, the co-efficient of thermal expansion/contraction, the highest temperature expected during the year and whether the boards are exposed to full sun and/or shade. Expansion could be as much as 10mm on the decking board depending upon the factors mentioned above.

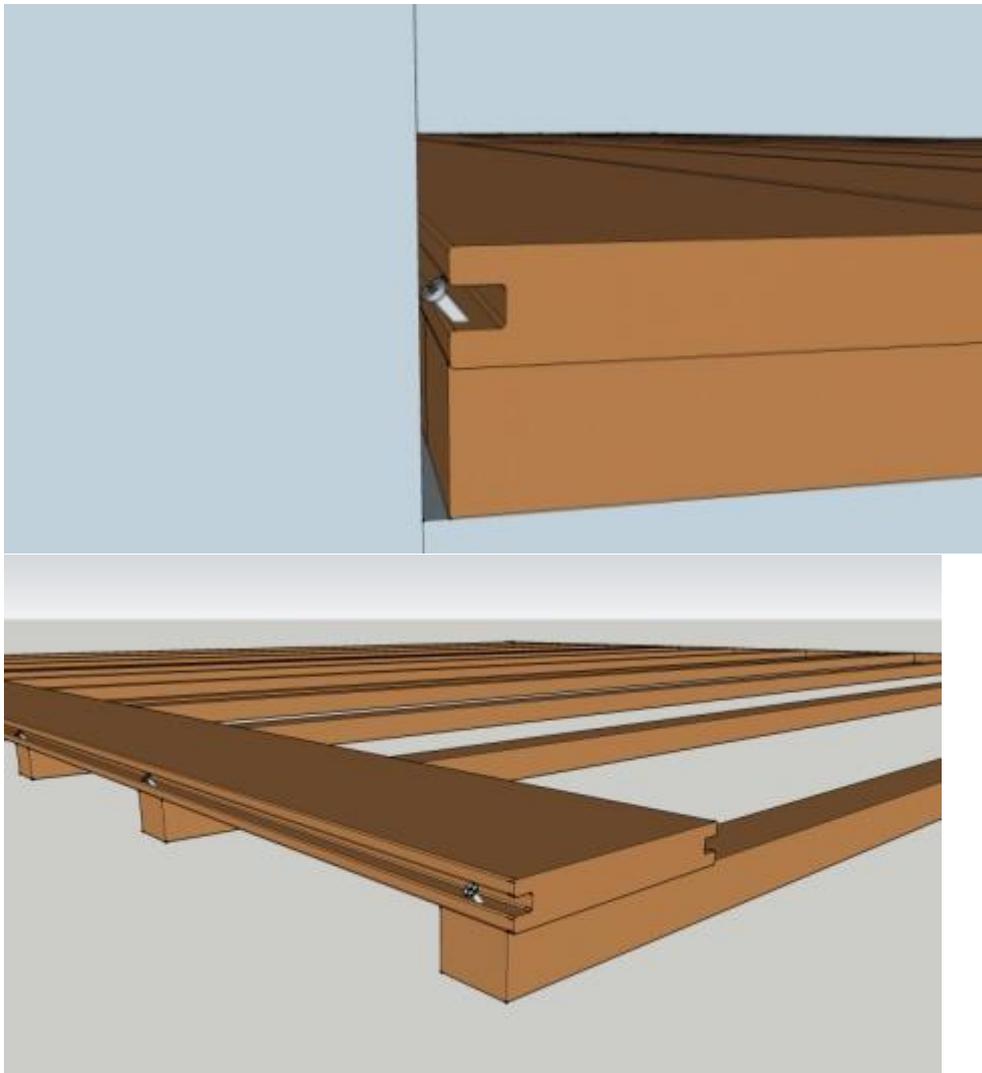
It may be necessary to increase the width of the joists where boards are to be placed end-to-end, as clips will be required at the end of one board and the commencement of another, this will ensure the composite decking boards are held securely in place.



6 Installing composite decking boards

To install your first board, pre-drill pilot holes at an angle through grooved edge of the composite decking board into joist. Install screws through pilot holes to secure.

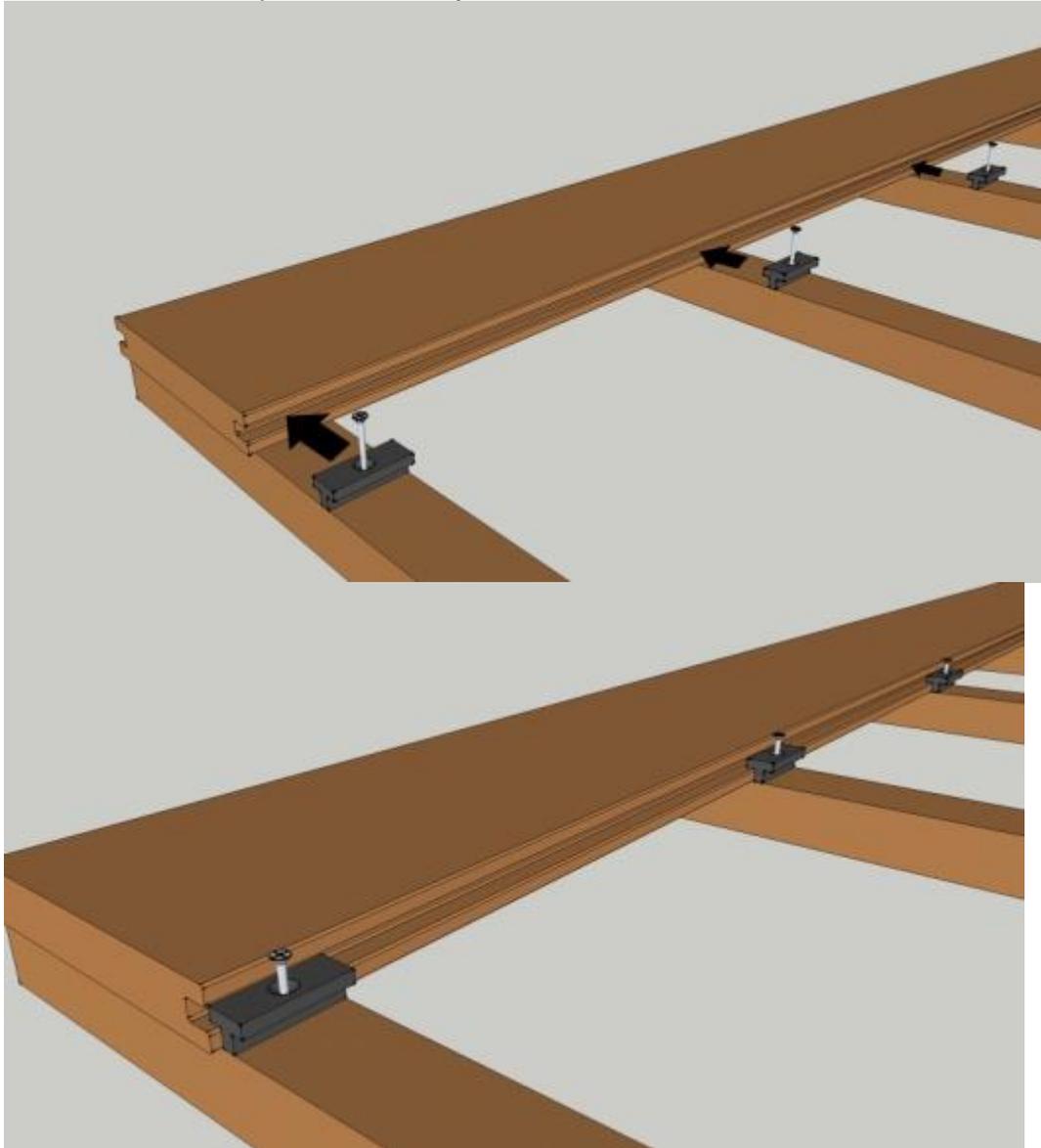
Important: you need to make sure the first board is fixed, secured and in correct alignment.



Insert fastener into grooved edge of deck board.

Align screw hole in fastener with centre of joist. Continue same action along the length of the board at every joist.

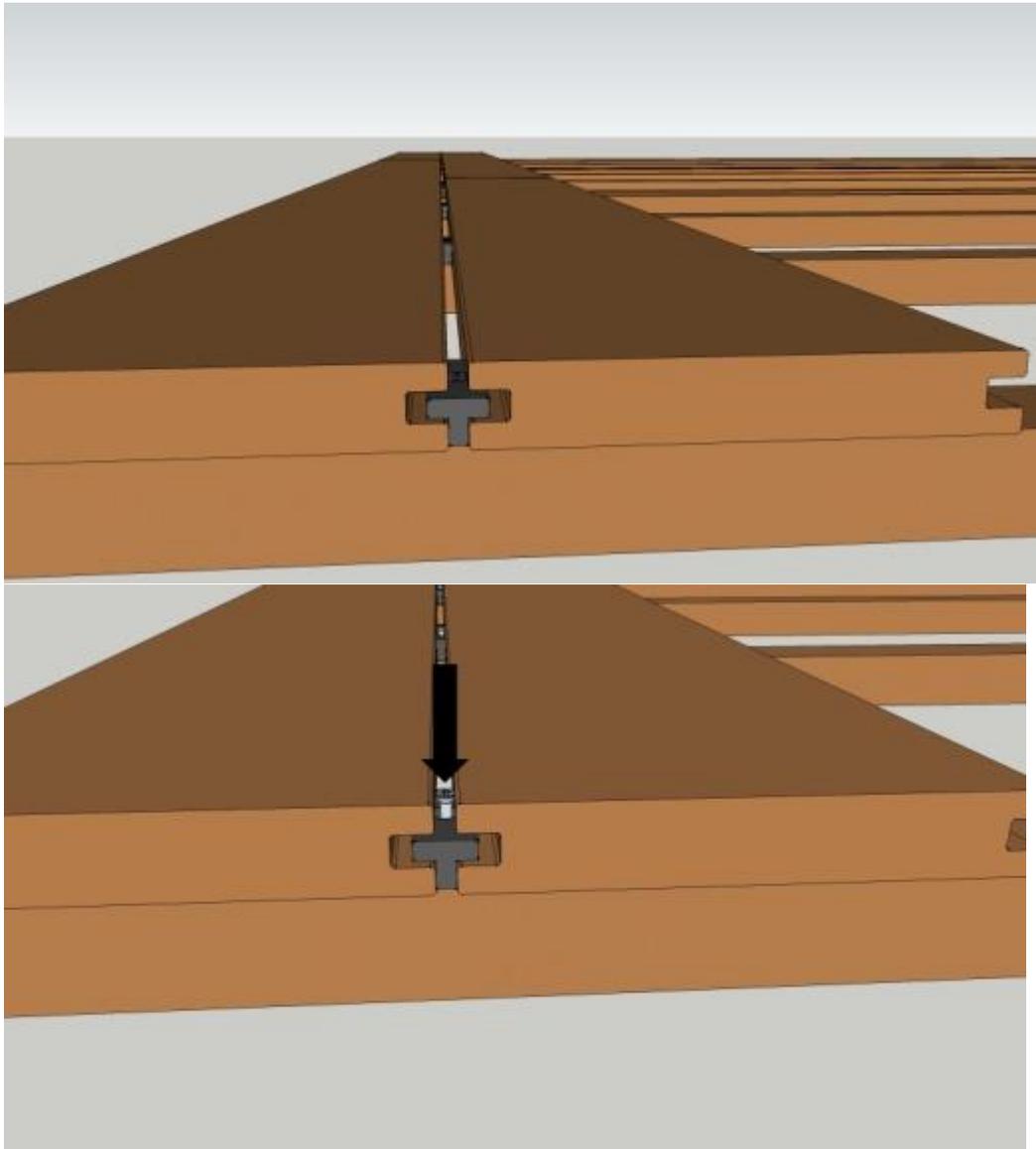
Note: For plastic clips, screw only halfway down. DO NOT fully tighten. For stainless steel clips, screw fully down.



Using the clips and screws provided attach to the joists as per above diagram, then slide the second board into place, making sure all clips fit into the groove.

Note: If you are using the plastic clips, tighten the screws fully in the first row.

Repeat the process for the remaining boards until you reach the final board where the procedure used on the first installed board is repeated (ie; predrilled pilot holes on an angle into the grooved edge of the decking board).



Install screws through pilot holes to secure.

Note: If you are installing a [cover board](#), pre-drill pilot holes on the overhanging edge and secure with screws to achieve a neat finish, if this is not possible you may be required to drill from above as per the illustration below.