



www.mhsouthern.co.uk



Constructing your deck



PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER



PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER
WITH BUILT-IN COLOUR

Timber decking is proving to be the perfect high performance, low maintenance material for creating leisure environments in our gardens.

A warmer, more natural alternative to traditional paving materials, timber decks can expand our homes and provide the perfect place for relaxation.

The **MHS** decking range of components combines flexibility and ease of installation with guaranteed quality and durability to help create unique deck designs.

- Quality Redwood machined components.
- All components are pressure pre-treated with the latest generation wood preservative to provide a long and low maintenance service life.
- A choice of treatments to give either a pale green or rich brown colouration.
- Simple to fix and install.
- Range of brush applied maintenance products available.



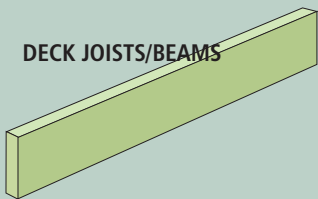
PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER



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Structural Components

DECK JOISTS/BEAMS

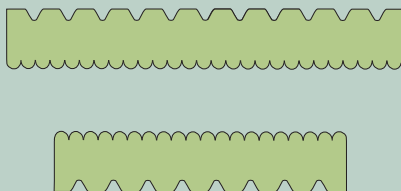


DIMENSIONS

47mm x 100mm 47mm x 175mm
47mm x 150mm 47mm x 200mm
Lengths up to 6 metres

Used to create the framework of the deck.

DECK BOARD - REVERSIBLE

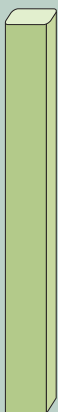


DIMENSIONS

38mm x 100mm
38mm x 150mm
Lengths up to 6 metres

Fitted to the framework to create the surface of the deck. The deck boards offer a choice of two grooved faces, each helping to provide an effective anti-slip surface.

SUPPORT POSTS



DIMENSIONS

75mm x 75mm
75mm x 100mm
100mm x 100mm
Lengths up to 4.8 metres

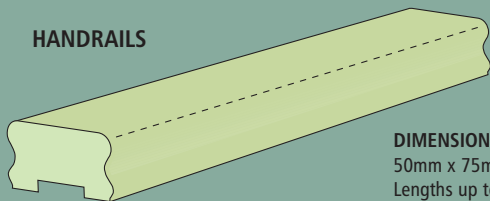
Used to create a raised deck or to level a sloping site. Posts can be extended through the deck to create support posts for railings.

QUALITY TIMBER, QUALITY PROTECTION

All MHS decking components are manufactured from quality REDWOOD timbers from properly managed forest resources. They are also preservative pressure treated with TANALITH® E, the latest generation, environmentally preferred protection for timber. This ensures the components have a long service life with complete protection against decay and insect attack.

Decorative Components

HANDRAILS

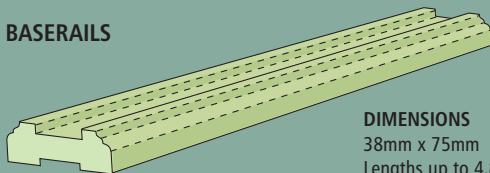


DIMENSIONS

50mm x 75mm

Lengths up to 4.8 metres

BASERAILS

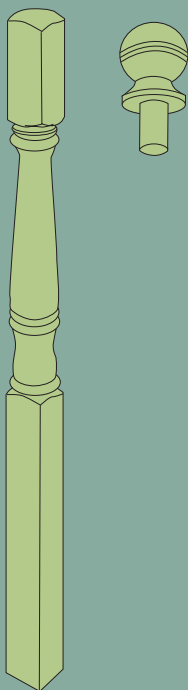


DIMENSIONS

38mm x 75mm

Lengths up to 4.8 metres

NEWEL POSTS AND BALL FINIALS



DIMENSIONS

90mm x 90mm x 1600mm
including ball finial

FINISHED SIZE

TURNT SPINDLES



DIMENSIONS

41mm x 41mm x 900mm

FINISHED SIZE

PLEASE NOTE

All dimensions stated are
NOMINAL SIZES
before machining,
except where indicated.

Fencing Components

A range of quality fencing components from MHS, all pressure preservative pre-treated, provide the perfect complementary system to complete your garden environment.



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FENCE POSTS

75mm x 75mm, 75mm x 100mm,
100mm x 100mm - Lengths 1.8m - 2.4m

FENCE BOARDS

14mm x 150mm 1.5m - 2.4m lengths
19mm x 100mm 1.8m - 2.4m lengths
19mm x 150mm 1.8m - 2.4m lengths
25mm x 100mm 1.5m - 2.4m lengths
25mm x 150mm 1.5m - 2.4m lengths
Military & Pointed Palings also available.

FENCE RAILS

38mm x 75mm 2.4m - 4.8m lengths.

WEATHERBOARDS

Log Effect

19mm x 100mm
25mm x 100mm



Spooned

19mm x 125mm
19mm x 150mm



Maintenance Products

Manufactured from the most renowned pressure preservative pre-treated timber - TANALITH® E - **MHS** decking and fencing components are completely protected against decay and insect attack.

However, a range of brush applied maintenance products is also available to help make the most of your treated timbers.

ENSELE® is an end grain preservative which should be applied to any cuts or notching made to the decking and fencing timbers during construction to maintain the integrity of the preservative protection.



Hickson Decor **WAXCOAT** can be utilised every 2-3 years to add a further water repellent protection to the decorative decking components, reducing the chance of cracking, warping or splitting.



Hickson Decor **ANTISLIP** is a clear, coarse aggregate solution which can be applied to the deckboards and any steps built into the deck design to help provide an extra safe, non-slip surface as well as deterring any surface algae/mould growth.



The information in this leaflet is given purely as guidance about the MHS decking system. We do not accept any responsibility for unsafe installation of decking material. Should you have any doubts about the safety of your own decking installation you should consult a qualified deck installer.

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Berwick upon Tweed. TD15 2XF.

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1 Safety First

Because the preservative is permanently fixed in the wood before you buy it, our decking components are perfectly safe and pose no risk to people, animals and plants. Extra care must be taken when using treated timber around fresh water fish ponds. Please consult us for advice before undertaking such a project.

- *Wear gloves to avoid splinters.*
- *Avoid prolonged inhalation of sawdust from the timber.*
- *When using power tools wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from the possibility of flying particles.*
- *Dispose of treated wood off cuts as ordinary household waste **but do not burn in open fires, barbecues, stoves or fireplaces.***
- *Wash hands after working with any construction material and before eating or smoking.*

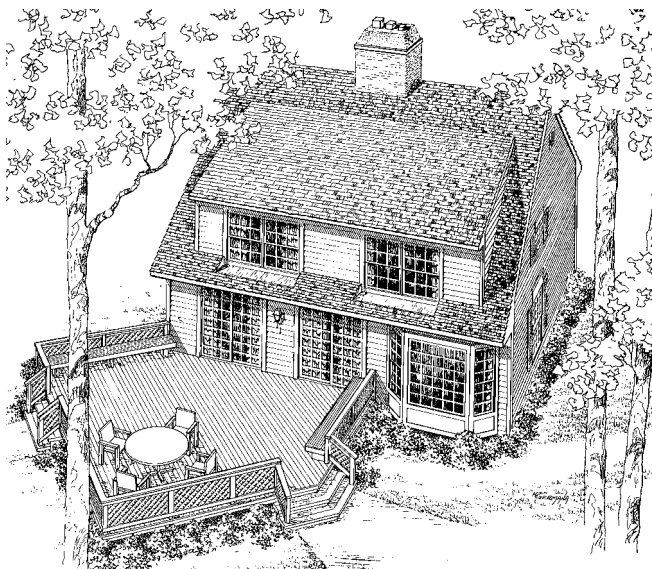
2 Tools

The following is a list of tools and equipment you are likely to need for your decking project. If you do not have all these tools they can be hired for the duration of your decking project:

Hand Saw	Edging Tool
Chop/Circular Saw	Chisel
Jig Saw	Craft Knife
Tape Measure	String
Long Spirit Level	Trowel
Infra Red Laser Level	Rake
Electric Drill	Work Gloves
Set Square	Paint Brush
Hammer	Sand Paper
Spade	Shovel
Cement Mixer (if support posts are being used)	

3 Before You Start

You do not have to start from scratch with your deck design. Simple designs are available in a range of DIY magazines and decking books.



The following instructions detail the basic instructions for building a simple deck design from **MHS** decking components and provided you can drill holes, tighten screws and bolts, read a spirit level and use a saw, then a decking project is well within your scope.

If you begin with a simple design your decking skills will quickly develop and additions and bigger projects will become more realistic.

We do recommend that if you wish to raise your deck over 600mm above ground level then a qualified builder or decking professional should be consulted.

We also recommend that all fixings used with **MHS** decking components are made from galvanised or stainless steel material, to ensure a long life to complement the **TANALITH® E** treated timber components.

When constructing your deck all cut ends and drilled holes must be brushed with **ENSELE®** end grain preservative to maintain the integrity of the preservative treatment.



4 Preparing the Site



Mark out the area to be occupied by your deck with wooden pegs and string. This will help you to visualise the size of the finished deck and serve as a guide for preparing the site. If the site you have chosen is lawned, it is recommended that the turfs are removed.

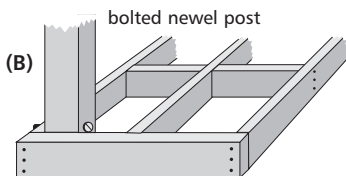
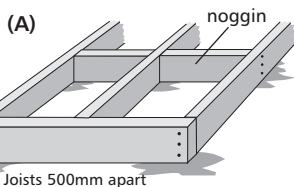
Make sure that the site is level.

TIP - If your site is on bare earth you can prevent the growth of unwanted vegetation under your deck by covering bare ground with black garden membrane, followed by gravel.

5 Frame for Flat Level Deck

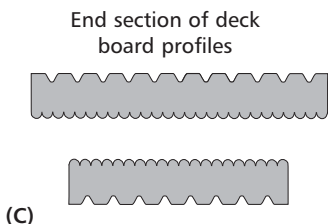
The framework (A), made up from **MHS** joists, which will support the deckboards, can be laid directly on the ground, using concrete pads if required to level and support the framework. Joists should be fixed 500mm apart at centres. Noggins (joist sections) can add extra support to your deck and keep the framework rigid.

Now that your deck frame is level and fixed, newel posts (B) if required can be fitted using bolts (galvanised) to the inner side of the joist. Handrails and spindles, if required, can be added once deckboards are laid (Step 8).



6 Fixing the Deck Boards

MHS deckboards (C) are available in a choice of two sizes and with a choice of two grooved surfaces, either of which provide an effective anti-slip feature during wet weather.



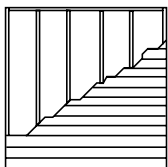
Cut your deck boards to the required length. Place the first board flush with the face of the joist at the front of the deck and fix, using three screws in pre-drilled holes in each board. Repeat the fixing of three screws on each joist support along the length of the deck board. Ensure drill holes and sawn ends are treated with ENSELE® before fixing.

Install the remaining boards in a similar way, leaving a 6mm gap between boards to allow for expansion of the timber.

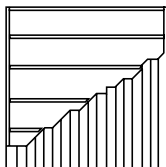
TIP - Use a 6mm gauge nail or screw to place between the boards to provide a consistent gap.

Deck boards can be laid in a number of different styles and a sample of just some of the possibilities are shown in the diagrams below.

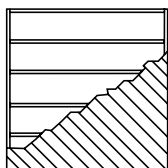
It is important that you decide on the deck board style before assembling the support joists as some patterns will affect the spacing and number of joists, eg. a double joist will be needed for the 'Chevron' style.



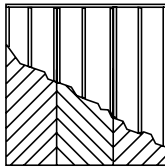
Horizontal



Vertical



Diagonal

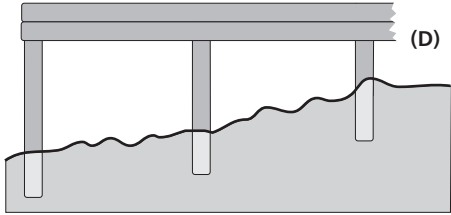


Chevron

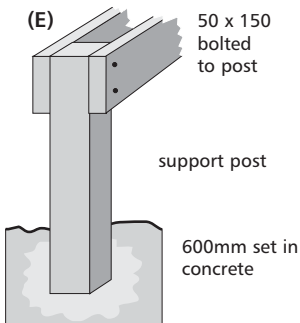
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Raised Decks

A raised deck (D) can be used to cope with uneven or sloping ground or to create a split level deck.



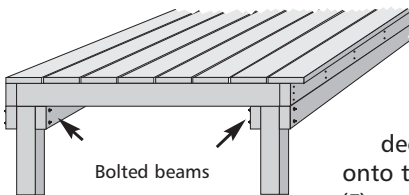
We recommend a framework of 47mm x 150mm deck joists fixed as the ground level deck shown overleaf.



The framework then needs fixing onto 47mm x 150mm beams bolted to support posts (E).

Support posts should be concreted into the ground with at least 600mm set into concrete and allowed to harden. We suggest posts are placed no more than 1800mm apart for strength. Bolt the beams through the

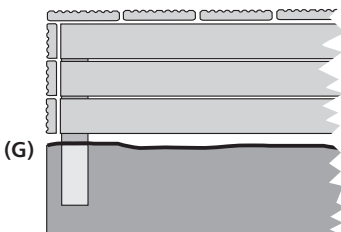
posts ensuring they are level.



The deck framework can now be fixed to the levelled beams and

deckboards screwed onto the deck framework (F).

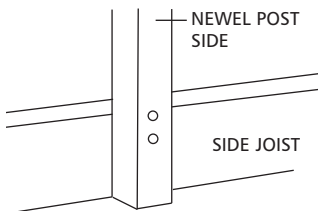
To conceal the support posts/joists/beams, deck boards (G) can be fixed to ground level if required.



8 Fitting Railings

The safety and beauty of your deck can be enhanced by railings created from handrails, baserails and spindles from the **MHS** range.

POST FIXINGS

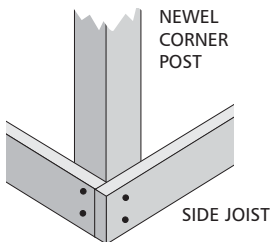


Install the newel posts for railings fixed directly to the side joist/fascia of the deck.

Posts will be required at each corner and at a maximum of 1200mm

intervals on straight sections (inside of posts).

Posts should be bolted through the fascia and rim joists.



Handrails and bottom rails should be cut to size to fit between the posts.

Cut and fix the spindles, with a maximum gap of 100mm between each, into the handrails and bottom rails to achieve the required depth of rail assembly. Fix the completed rail assembly between the posts and repeat for other sections required.

