



A step-by-step guide to creating your outdoor room

# Building a simple deck is easily accomplished by any competent DIY enthusiast



Arbordeck components are manufactured from pressure treated timber, which has been impregnated with the environmentally advanced Osmose Naturewood wood preservative. This treatment gives long term protection against fungal and insect attack, for both in and out-of-ground contact applications.

By choosing Arbordeck® you have selected a complete decking system, manufactured by a British company with over 165 years' experience in the timber trade, and an established reputation for industry knowledge, product quality and service.

With Arbordeck you will benefit from our extensive research into the best decking products, the finest Northern European timber and the best of British manufacturing processes.

And, because we are members of associations established to provide you, the customer, with unrivalled peace of mind, you can be assured of a first class product and service.

## Maintaining Arbordeck

**Maintenance of your Arbordeck components couldn't be simpler. A range of brush applied products is available to ensure the very best care in the construction and subsequent maintenance of your deck.**

**End-grain** - Available in 1 litre cans, End-grain preservative must be applied to any cuts or notches made to the timber during construction to maintain the integrity of the preservative treatment and the performance warranty.

**Waxcoat™** - Available in 2.5 and 5 litre tins, Waxcoat™ can be used every two to three years to add a water repellent protection to the timber.

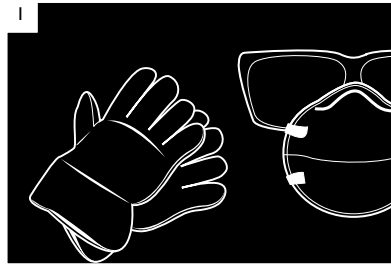
**Antislip™** - Available in 1 and 2.5 litre cans, Antislip™ is a clear, coarse aggregate coating that can be applied to steps and around water features to help provide sure footing in wet weather.

# An introduction to deck building

For more detailed information consult the **Timber Decking Association's Timber Decking Manual (01977 558147)** or any specialist book on deck building.

Our deck has a height of less than 600mm; for decks above this height we recommend you consult an installer. If you are unsure at any stage of building your deck, it is advisable to seek advice from a professional.

Special thanks to Darren Turner of Distinctive Landscapes for his invaluable assistance in the production of this brochure. Telephone: 07967 196270.



## BEFORE YOU START

When using power tools we recommend the use of safety glasses and a dust mask. Always wear gloves to protect your hands from rough timber.



## PREPARING THE SITE

Using the plans mark out the site with pegs and string. Clear the site of vegetation including turf. Lay a weed suppressant membrane.



Cover the area with 50mm depth of gravel. Determine the position of the support posts. Dig a hole 600mm deep and 600mm in diameter. Fill with concrete and leave to set for at least 24 hours.



Mark out the position of the ledger on the wall. The finished deck surface must be at least two brick courses below the damp proof course.



After cutting to length attach the ledger to the wall with suitable bolts. A 10mm gap should be spaced between the wall and the ledger to ensure drainage.



Ensure that all cut surfaces are brushed with End-grain. Apply several coats, following the manufacturers instructions. Failure to do this will invalidate your preservative warranty.



If there is not room below your damp proof course to build a deck without excavation, consider a free standing deck, leaving room between the house and deck to prevent water standing or splashing against the wall.



## ATTACHING THE JOISTS

After marking the position of the joists at 400mm centres on the side beams, attach the joist hangers with galvanised nails. Use an offcut from a joist as a guide.



Using temporary braces for support attach the beams to the ledger. Allow for some adjustment to ensure the deck will be square and level.



10 Attach the end beam using landscape screws.



11 Check the beams are square using a 3, 4, 5 square, reinforcing all the corners using a framing anchor.



12 Adjust the height of the side beams to allow a slight fall in the deck away from the house. This will ensure the deck drains correctly.



13 Accurately position the post bases and attach using expanding bolts.



14 Attach the posts to the beams using coach bolts or landscape screws.



15 Where possible make sure the original treated end of the post is on the ground and attach using galvanised or stainless steel screws.



16 After treating the cut ends of the joist with End-grain, nail in place into the joist hanger. If you are using the contemporary handrail system you can now start to fix your deck boards.



**ATTACHING THE NEWEL POSTS**

17 Calculate the height of the handrail by placing all the components on the newel post. Mark the height of the top of the joist.



18 If the deck is greater than 600mm from the ground the handrail must be at least 1100mm from the deck surface.

For decks at higher levels consult an installer or constructional engineer for advice.



19 Ensure the newel post is vertical and attach it to the inside of the beams with landscape screws or coach bolts. Repeat this process around the inside perimeter of the deck, spacing the posts at a maximum of 1800mm centres.



**LAYING THE DECK BOARDS**

20 After carefully marking the boards notch out positions for the posts and treat with End-grain.



21 When notching the boards leave a 2 - 3mm gap around the post to allow for movement of the boards.



22 Attach the first two boards by screwing through the surface using galvanised or stainless steel deck screws.



23 Nail the deck clips to the leading edge of the board. Space the deck clips about 50mm from each joist.



24 For speed of fitting prepare several boards in advance.



25 Push each board against the previously fixed board. The deck clips should fit under the fixed board. They should give a minimum of 3mm gap between the boards.



26 Skew screw through the side of the deck board to attach the board to each joist. If necessary pre-drill at the ends of the boards to prevent splitting.



27 Once all the boards are fixed, determine the position of the edge of the deck. Attach a baton as a temporary guide line.



28 Using the guide line trim the excess board with a circular saw. Remove the guide baton.



29 Don't forget to brush the cut ends with End-grain.



30 **ATTACHING THE SPINDLES AND HANDRAIL**  
Using a tape, measure the distance between the newels on the handrail and cut to length.



31 Starting from the centre mark the position of the spindles on the handrail. For easier fitting start the screws in position on the rail before attaching the spindles.



32 Use a spacer to ensure that the spindles are evenly spread. The maximum gap between the spindles must be no more than 100mm.



33 Lay the spindles flat and attach the bottom rail using the galvanised or stainless steel screws.



34 Fix the brackets using the screws provided.



35 Use supports to help ensure the rail is level. Make sure there is sufficient space to fit the bottom angle brackets. Ensure the gap between the deckboard and base rail is no greater than 100mm.



36 To prevent the top bracket being seen, fix the bracket so the vertical plate is above the top rail.



37 Gently knock the finished rail into place. Use an offcut to prevent damage to the rail.



38 **ADDING THE STEPS**  
Mark the level along the length of the side beam.



39 Checking for the vertical attach the furthest stair stringers.



40 Secure the stringer by skew screwing to the beam or using a framing anchor.



41 Attach additional stringers to ensure the maximum distance between them is no more than 400mm on centre.



42 Holding the newel post vertical attach using landscape screws. Remember this post is resting on the ground and so should be supported by a concrete pad and post base.



43 Starting from the bottom fix the boards by screwing through the face into the stair stringers.



44 The finished deck fitted with the Arbordeck classic handrail. The sides of our deck have been cloaked with deck boards. Adequate ventilation has been provided to allow the substructure to dry after rain.

## Fitting the Arbordeck contemporary handrail




45 The top of the handrail should be 900mm from deck level. Mark this height on the newel post.



46 Pre-drill 2 landscape screws into position.



47 Holding the post vertical and with your mark at deck level, attach the post using the landscape screws.



48 Ensuring the back rail is square with the newel post fix using two or more galvanised or stainless steel screws.



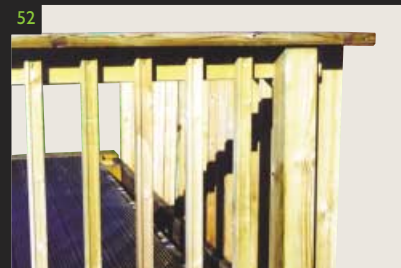
49 Cut the end of the top rail at a 45 degree mitre (for a 90 degree join) and fix using screws or deck rail ties.



50 Cut the next piece of handrail at 45 degrees, butt to the original piece and fix using screws or deck rail ties.



51 Calculate the spacing required on each spindle (max 100mm) and attach using a spacer as a guide.



52 For easier assembly consider using two newel posts on each corner.



53 The finished deck fitted with the Arbordeck contemporary handrail.

# Questions & answers

## Your decking queries solved

### **Q: Can decking be used next to my fishpond?**

**A:** Yes. The preservative used to protect Arbordeck components reacts with the timber structure to become 'locked in' and leach resistant. Prior to installation, ensure the timber is free from surface deposits, e.g. sawdust.

### **Q: Can decking be used on a sloping site?**

**A:** Yes - one of the main advantages of timber decking over other landscaping materials is that it does not have to be fixed directly onto the ground. This means that support posts can be used to overcome the problems of a sloping garden.

### **Q: I'm not sure where best to site a deck in my garden – can someone advise me on various designs and costs?**

**A:** If you take along the measurements of your garden, Arbordeck distributors will be able to advise you of various options and costs to suit your budget.

### **Q: Does Arbordeck decking come with a guarantee?**

**A:** All Arbordeck timber components have a 15-year guarantee\* against fungal decay and insect attack. However, due to the durable nature of timber, there is no reason why your deck will not last for a lot longer, especially if properly cared for and maintained.

\*backed by Osmove Timber Technologies. Restrictions apply against certain products. Please contact us for details.

### **Q: Do I need a specialist installer to build my deck?**

**A:** Building a deck requires basic DIY skills - if you can drill holes, tighten screws and bolts, read a spirit level and use a saw, you will have no problems. See our How To Build Your Deck section on pages 3 to 6 - it really is that simple. Alternatively, ask your supplier to recommend a local installer who will be able to do the job for you.

### **Q: How should deck boards be fastened?**

**A:** Deck boards should be attached to the structure underneath using screws or ironmongery specifically for decking. Arbordeck decking products include a wide range of galvanised and stainless steel fixings for use with Osmove Naturewood treated timber. These fixings will provide a long service life to match the treated timber.

### **Q: Why do I need to leave a space between deck boards?**

**A:** As timber is a natural product, it can 'move' slightly when exposed to the weather. This is why it is recommended that you leave a small gap between deck boards - anything from 3mm to 10mm will be sufficient.

### **Q: Will my deck require any maintenance?**

**A:** Although Arbordeck decking components are guaranteed against decay, your deck will require some maintenance to keep it looking at its best. We recommend cleaning with a stiff brush to remove debris. The regular application of a protective treatment, such as SEASONITE or WAXCOAT as recommended by the manufacturer, will help to protect your deck against the elements. Contact the Arbordeck office for further details.

### **Q: Doesn't decking become slippery in wet weather conditions?**

**A:** Timber is not inherently slippery, but as with any other outside surface, a build up of debris can leave a slippery surface coating. We recommend a good regular clean up of your deck to prevent problems. A suitable anti-slip product can be applied to high traffic areas, such as steps and doorways.

### **Q: Are there any regulations governing decking?**

**A:** Although there is no specific legislation for decking at the moment, any construction is covered by Building Regulations. The Timber

Decking Association, the decking industry's professional body, is responsible for recommending best practices. For further details regarding regulations contact the Timber Decking Association on 01977 558147.

In addition, large or unusual deck structures may be subject to planning permission in your local area, so check with your local council.

### **Q: Can decking be used on a roof, eg. on top of a garage?**

**A:** Many people enjoy a deck-based roof garden or terrace. However, we strongly recommend that you consult a structural engineer before planning a high level or roof level deck. They will be able to determine whether or not the existing sub-structure is suitable and also if it will be able to support the proposed deck.

### **Q: Is timber decking harmful to the environment?**

**A:** No - we import all Arbordeck timber from countries and suppliers that meet UN requirements for proper management of forest resources, including vast replanting schemes. Man-made materials can cause much greater damage to the environment during production processes.

### **Q: There is a drain in our garden that we occasionally need to access - does this mean that we cannot have a deck?**

**A:** Not at all. Due to the versatility of timber decking, a hinged panel can be used to cover the drain and allow access when required.



**Arbordeck components are manufactured from Osmose Naturewood treated timber - the most renowned and effective pre-treated timber available. Components carry a 15-year performance guarantee\* against decay or insect attack. For a personalised 15-year guarantee for your deck products, please send us a receipt for your Arbordeck purchase, together with your name and address.**



By buying products with the FSC label you are supporting the growth of responsible forest management worldwide.  
The global benchmark for responsible forest management.  
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DeckMark™ is a quality assurance scheme introduced by the Timber Decking Association to confirm manufacturers compliance with Best Practice guidance and all relevant British Standards. For further information please contact the TDA on 01977 558147.



Arbordeck uses timber from forest sources that are managed to strict international environmental standards.

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Log on to [www.arbordeck.co.uk](http://www.arbordeck.co.uk) or contact us by phone, fax or email to find your local stockist.

**How to build Arbordeck**  
Are you a DIY enthusiast? Log on to [www.arbordeck.co.uk](http://www.arbordeck.co.uk) and download our How To Build brochure. Alternatively contact us by phone, fax or email for the brochure to be posted to you.

If you would like your deck professionally installed please contact us and we can put you in touch with a Timber Decking Association 'DeckMark™ accredited' installer.

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Arbordeck would like to thank the following for their assistance in providing the projects photographed in this brochure:

**>Front**  
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**>03**  
**Top inset.** Timberscapes, Leeds.  
**Bottom inset.** Distinctive Landscapes, Mansfield.

**>08**  
**Main.** Distinctive Landscapes, Mansfield.  
**Cover inset.** Timberscapes, Leeds.

\*Restrictions apply against certain products. Please contact us for details.



The Arbordeck lifestyle brochure contains detailed information on the system and components, along with inspirational ideas and examples to fire your imagination.

Visit [www.arbordeck.co.uk](http://www.arbordeck.co.uk) and download or request your copy today!

