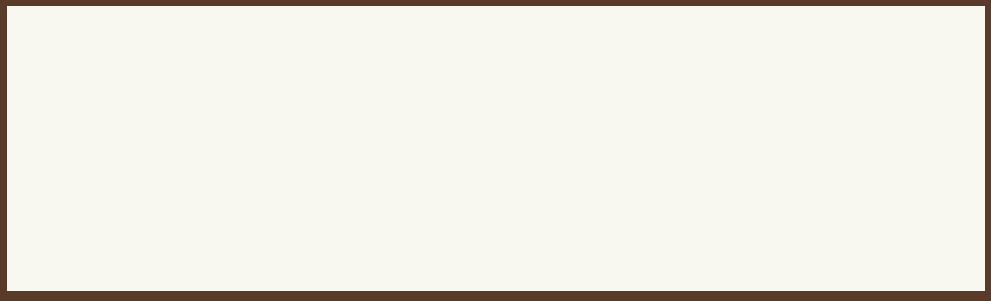
Forté

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Millboard Exterior Decking System

FOR USE WITH MILLBOARD MINERAL BOARD DECKING



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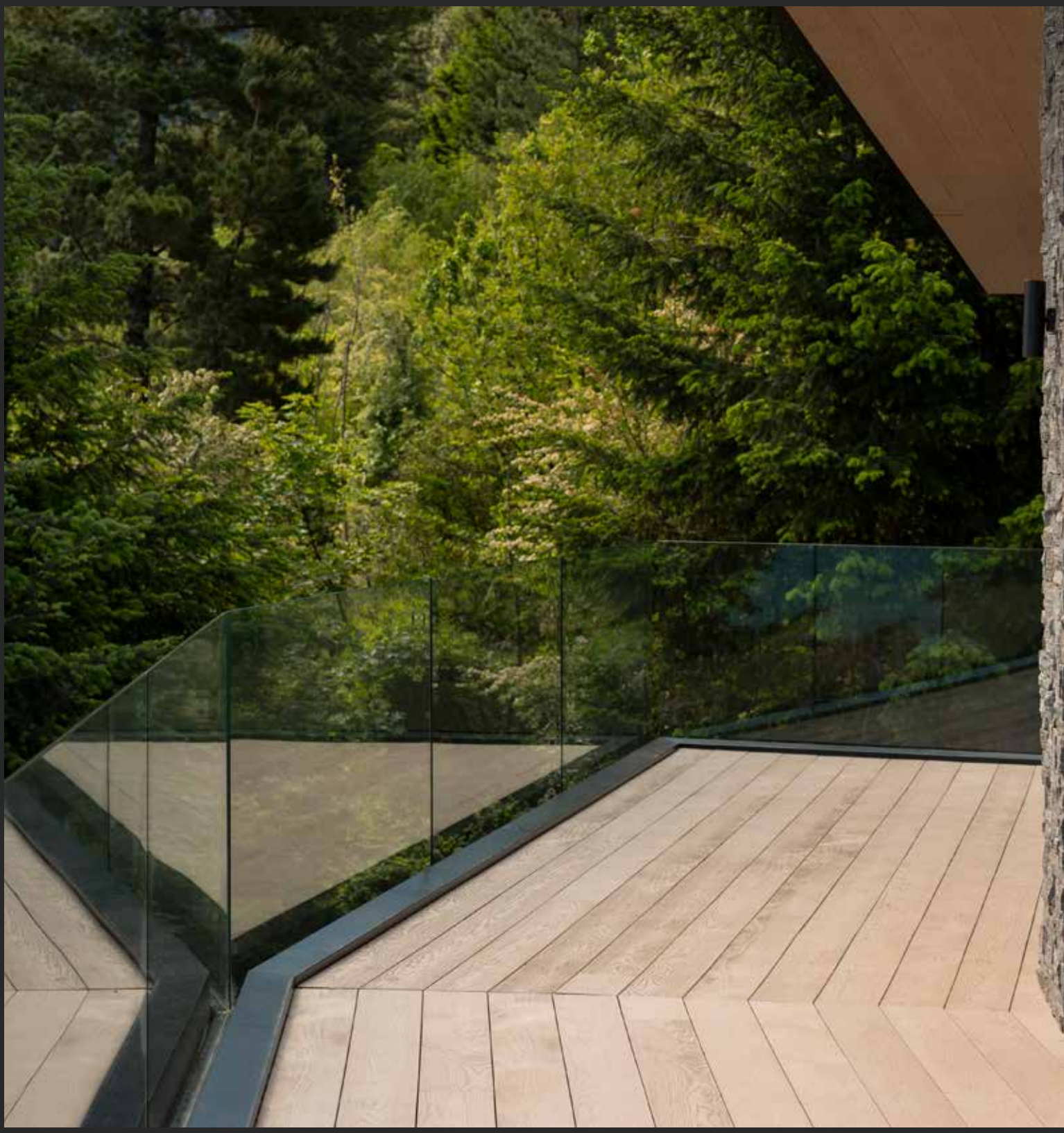
ABOUT MILLBOARD



Millboard is a timber-look decking system made from a fibre-reinforced resin-mineral core with a durable Lastane® surface. Designed to replicate the appearance of natural timber, it delivers superior resistance to moisture, rot and UV exposure. Key characteristics such as dimensional stability, structural performance and surface durability are all relevant during installation and handling on site.

1.1 PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Millboard decking blends the authentic character of natural timber with the performance of innovative material technology, offering a surface that is both refined and resilient.

Each board is hand-moulded from carefully selected oak, capturing the intricate grain, knots and texture of real timber. This process ensures a unique, organic appearance that enhances the natural variation of the finished deck.

Beneath the surface, the board's core is made from a blend of natural minerals and polymer resin, reinforced with long fibres for added strength, dimensional stability and resistance to moisture. This construction allows Millboard to perform exceptionally well in outdoor settings without warping, rotting or absorbing water.

The surface layer is formed from Lastane, a durable elastomer that delivers excellent slip resistance and a comfortable underfoot feel. A two-part UV-stable coating is applied to protect against fading and wear, preserving the board's appearance with minimal maintenance over time.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Millboard is suitable for a wide range of applications, but must be used within defined performance parameters. Load capacities, environmental exposure and compliance requirements should be understood prior to installation to ensure the product performs as intended and meets regulatory obligations.

2.0 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The following guidance outlines where the Forté Millboard Decking System can be used, and any limitations or conditions that apply to ensure safe, compliant and long-lasting installations.

SCOPE	LIMITATIONS
Location In all exposure zones as defined in NZS 3604:2011.	— Where microclimatic conditions apply, as defined in NZS 3604:2011, contact Millboard for technical advice. — Fixings must be in accordance with section 4 of NZS 3604:2011. In exposure zone D, stainless steel fixings must be used.
Building On timber framing that complies with the NZ Building Code or with the Outdure Qwickbuild System. As an external decking board.	— The framing must have a minimum design load of 2kPa or be subject to specific engineering design requirements. — Joist spacing must be at maximum of 400mm centres for residential applications or 300mm centres for commercial applications. — Durafix® fixings must be used (4.5mm x 60mm dimension) to fasten the Millboard Decking boards to a timber subframe. — Durafix® 4.5mm x 45mm fixings can be used to fasten the Millboard Decking boards to a plastic subframe.

PRE-INSTALLATION

Successful installation begins with proper preparation. Allow for standard manufacturing tolerances, store boards away from contaminants like cement dust, and ensure the site is ready before work begins. Taking the time to plan layout, check board alignment and confirm fall direction will reduce rework and streamline progress on site.

3.1 STORAGE & HANDLING

Proper storage and handling of Millboard is essential to protect the surface finish and ensure the product performs as intended throughout its service life.

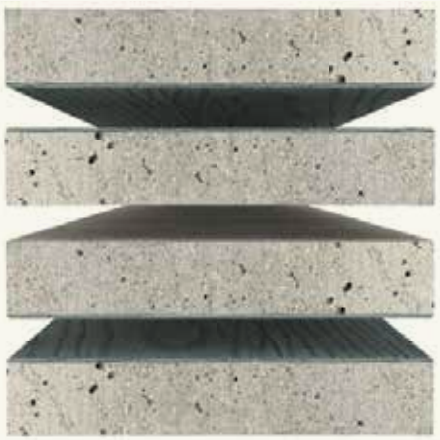
Boards must be stored flat, either directly on a level surface or on evenly spaced bearers no more than 400mm apart. Boards should be stacked face-to-face, not back-to-face, to avoid imprinting or surface distortion.

Avoid dragging boards off the pallet or across each other, as this can mark or abrade the Lastane® surface. While damage may not be immediately visible, it can worsen with UV exposure and may not be covered under warranty.

Pallets should only be moved when boards are securely strapped. Use gloves and long sleeves when handling, and always lift with care—Millboard is best carried by two people to avoid bending, dropping or edge damage.

BOARDS ON PALLET OR LEVEL BEARERS

BOARDS SHOULD BE STACKED FACE-TO-FACE



3.2 BOARD SET OUT

A well-considered board layout enhances the natural appearance of your deck, creating a more authentic timber look through variation in grain and pattern.

Millboard decking features eight unique grain patterns designed to replicate the natural variation found in real timber. To achieve a randomised, natural-looking finish, boards should be sorted into separate piles based on grain pattern before installation.

Installation Tips

During installation, pull boards from different piles to ensure a varied layout. Additionally, alternate the orientation of board end-cuts to reduce repetition and enhance the visual randomness of the surface.

3.3 TOOLS & PPE

Installing Millboard decking requires standard carpentry tools and appropriate personal protective equipment to ensure a safe, accurate and efficient installation process.

Millboard is designed to work easily with the tools most builders already have on hand. That said, a few specific recommendations will make the process quicker, cleaner and safer. Taking time to prepare your tools properly will help you deliver a reliable, professional finish.

Ensure all tools are used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If unfamiliar with any equipment, refer to the relevant user manual before use.

— **Mitre saw / jigsaw / handsaw:** Millboard cuts similarly to hardwood. For the cleanest finish and longer blade life, we recommend using a carbon-tipped wood-cutting blade for the decking boards. When cutting metal trims or aluminium accessories, switch to a dedicated aluminium-cutting blade.

— **Tool set:** A basic carpentry toolkit is all you need—this includes a tape measure, pencil, set square, planer, Stanley knife, drill and a set of drill bits. Accuracy at the planning stage will help avoid rework later.

— **Spirit level:** Keeping the subframe and boards level is critical to the deck's performance and finish. A long spirit level helps catch any dips or inconsistencies early in the process.

— **Personal Protective Equipment:** When handling Millboard, we recommend wearing gloves and long sleeves to avoid skin irritation. When cutting, an FFP3 dust mask, safety glasses and ear protection should be used to reduce exposure to dust and noise. Always cut in a well-ventilated area or outdoors.

— **Power drill and driver:** A standard cordless drill driver is ideal for installing Durafix® screws. Avoid using impact drivers, as they can overdrive the screws or damage the board surface. If needed, pre-drilling can help guide fixings more precisely in dense areas.

— **Laser level / string line:** Use these to keep your board lines straight and consistent, especially on larger decks where alignment across long runs is important. A string line is also useful when marking joist positions before install.

3.4 CUTTING

Millboard boards and trims can be cut using standard woodworking tools, with appropriate blades and dust control measures to ensure a clean and safe installation process.

Millboard decking can be cut using standard wood-cutting tools, such as a circular saw or mitre saw. For optimal results and longer blade life, a carbon-tipped saw blade is recommended. Boards should always be cut face-up and fully supported during cutting to minimise movement and ensure a clean edge.

When cutting aluminium trims, a specialist aluminium-cutting blade should be used to avoid damage to the trim or equipment. Care should be taken to protect the surface finish of the profiles.

If the cut edge will be exposed and subject to UV, a colour-matched touch-up coating should be applied to enhance visual consistency. This is an aesthetic recommendation only, as Millboard's core is inert and does not require end sealing for protection.

It is essential to use a dust extraction or vacuum system connected to the saw—particularly when using a mitre saw—to reduce airborne dust during cutting. All offcuts should be disposed of as general waste; Millboard materials must not be burned.

MATERIALS

Millboard installations rely on a coordinated system of components, including decking boards, fixings, edging profiles, fascia and compatible subframes. Each component plays a role in both the structure and finish of the deck. Understanding how these elements work together supports efficient installation and consistent results.

4.1 COLOUR CHARACTERISTICS

Millboard decking is designed to replicate the natural tonal variation of real timber, with each board carefully crafted to deliver an authentic, varied appearance.

Each board is hand-moulded from selected oak samples and finished with multiple layers of tonal colour to emulate the visual complexity of aged timber. As a result, variation will occur both within individual boards and across a batch. Certain colours, such as Antique Oak, are designed with a broader tonal range and will present more contrast than others.

To maintain a cohesive aesthetic, it is strongly recommended that decking for each project is purchased in a single production batch. Where this is not possible, installers should blend boards from multiple batches during installation, ensuring tonal differences are distributed evenly across the deck area.

Like all exterior materials, Millboard will undergo natural weathering over time due to exposure to UV and the elements. Initial changes in sheen or minor colour shift are to be expected and are not considered a product fault.

All boards must be inspected prior to installation. Any concerns related to colour consistency, surface quality or potential manufacturing defects must be raised with Forté before the product is fixed. Once installed, boards are deemed accepted and are no longer eligible for replacement on the basis of appearance.

Millboard's carefully controlled manufacturing process, combined with its resilient surface technology, ensures a long-lasting and visually compelling result—provided that variation is anticipated and managed correctly during installation.

Colour tone may vary from batch to batch. Antique Oak has more variance between boards.

4.2 MATERIALS & ACCESSORIES

	Enhanced Grain Decking Board	Enhanced Grain SB Decking Board	Weathered Oak Decking Board
			
DIMENSIONS	176 x 32 x 3600mm	126 x 32 x 3600mm	200 x 32 x 3600mm
WEIGHT	11.8kg	8.5kg	12.5kg
BOARDS PER M²	1.54	2.14	1.36
COLOURS	Antique Oak Ashwood Brushed Basalt Burnt Cedar Coppered Oak Ebony Grey Golden Oak Limed Oak Smoked Oak	Antique Oak Ashwood Brushed Basalt Burnt Cedar Coppered Oak Ebony Grey Golden Oak Limed Oak Smoked Oak	Driftwood Vintage Embered
FIXINGS	Durafix® 60mm screws	Durafix® 60mm screws	Durafix® 60mm screws

	Fascia Board	Bullnose Decking Board	Flexible Square Edge
			
DIMENSIONS	146 x 16 x 3600mm	150 x 32 x 3600mm	50 x 32 x 2400mm
WEIGHT	8.5kg	8.3kg	3.6kg
GRAIN	Enhanced Grain	Enhanced Grain	Enhanced Grain
COLOURS	Antique Oak Ashwood Brushed Basalt Driftwood Oak Golden Oak Limed Oak Smoked Oak	Antique Oak Ashwood Driftwood Oak Brushed Basalt Coppered Oak Ebony Grey Golden Oak Limed Oak Smoked Oak	Antique Oak Ashwood Brushed Basalt Coppered Oak Ebony Grey Golden Oak Limed Oak Smoked Oak
FIXINGS	Durafix® 35mm screws	Durafix® 60mm screws	Durafix® 60mm screws

	Durafix® Decking Fixings 35mm	Durafix® Decking Fixings 45mm	Durafix® Decking Fixings 60mm
			
DIMENSIONS	4.5 x 35mm	4.5 x 45mm	4.5 x 60mm
QUANTITY	Box of 100	Box of 250	Box of 250
FIXINGS	A2 stainless steel fixings used to fix fascia boards	A2 stainless steel fixings used to fix decking to aluminium subframe batten	A2 stainless steel fixings used to fix decking boards to timber subframe

4.3 TOUCH UP COATING

Cut ends of Millboard decking can be colour matched on site using a specially formulated touch-up coating for a more consistent and refined finish.

When Millboard boards are cut to length, the exposed ends may reveal a lighter core material. Although this has no effect on the board's durability or performance, applying touch-up coating can improve the visual continuity of the installation—particularly in high-visibility areas or where the ends are exposed.

Millboard is inert in composition and does not require end-grain sealing for protection. The use of touch-up coating is purely aesthetic and optional, but recommended where a uniform appearance is desired. The coating is available in colours matched to the standard Millboard ranges for ease of application on site.

SMOKED OAK

ANTIQUE OAK

BURNT CEDAR

GOLDEN OAK

LIMED OAK

EBONY GREY

VINTAGE OAK

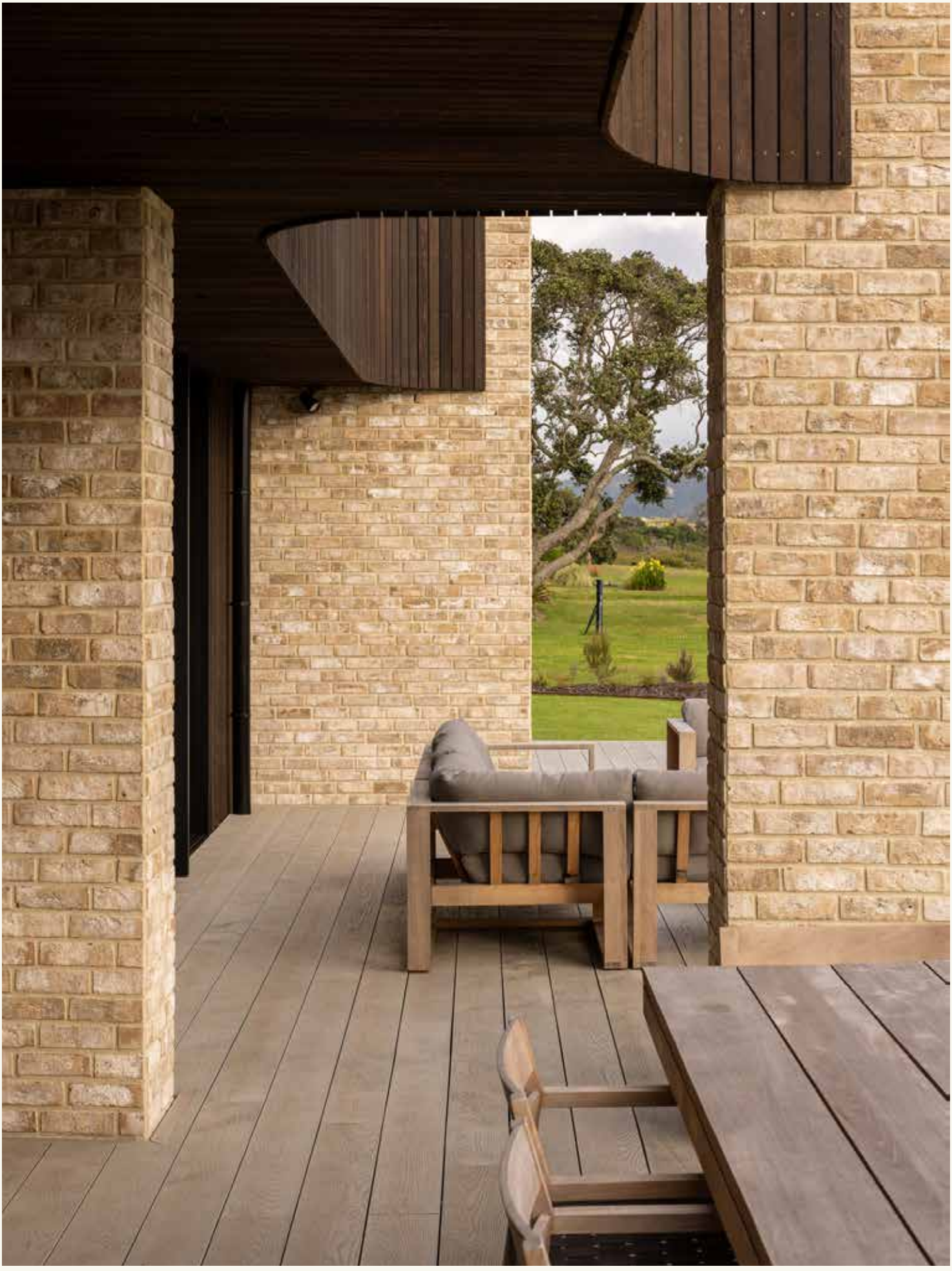
ASHWOOD

COPPERED OAK

BRUSHED BASALT

PREPARATION

Accurate setout is essential for alignment, drainage and long-term stability. String lines, Multi-Spacers and correct joist positioning all contribute to maintaining straight runs, consistent gapping and a flush finish. Subframe construction must account for support under joins, curves and edge details to ensure structural performance.



5.1 PRE-INSTALL

Millboard is a hand-moulded product and, like natural timber, features minor dimensional variation. Correct preparation on site is essential for a precise, long-lasting result.

Due to the nature of the moulding and curing process, slight variation in board size is inherent to Millboard's construction. Installers should allow for tolerances of ±5mm in length, ±3mm in width and ±2mm in thickness. These tolerances are within specification and should be factored into layout and alignment planning.

— **Installing Boards Flush:** Where a flush finish between adjacent boards is required, packers or shims may be necessary to compensate for minor differences in thickness or camber. This is particularly relevant in visible areas such as thresholds, steps or mitred corners.

— **Installing to a String Line:** It is recommended that boards are installed to a string line, particularly on larger runs. As Millboard is not engineered to be perfectly straight, minor adjustment during installation ensures visual alignment. Boards that exhibit bowing can typically be fixed into position to follow the string line.

— **Board Ends:** Board ends may require trimming on site to ensure a clean square cut, particularly when used at terminations or when abutting trims or fascia boards.

— **Decking Falls:** Although not required by the New Zealand Building Code, it is best practice to install decking with a minimum fall of 1:200 away from the building. This aids in water runoff, reduces the risk of water pooling and helps minimise long-term dirt build-up and algae growth—ultimately supporting the low-maintenance intent of the product.

5.2 SUBFRAME SETOUT

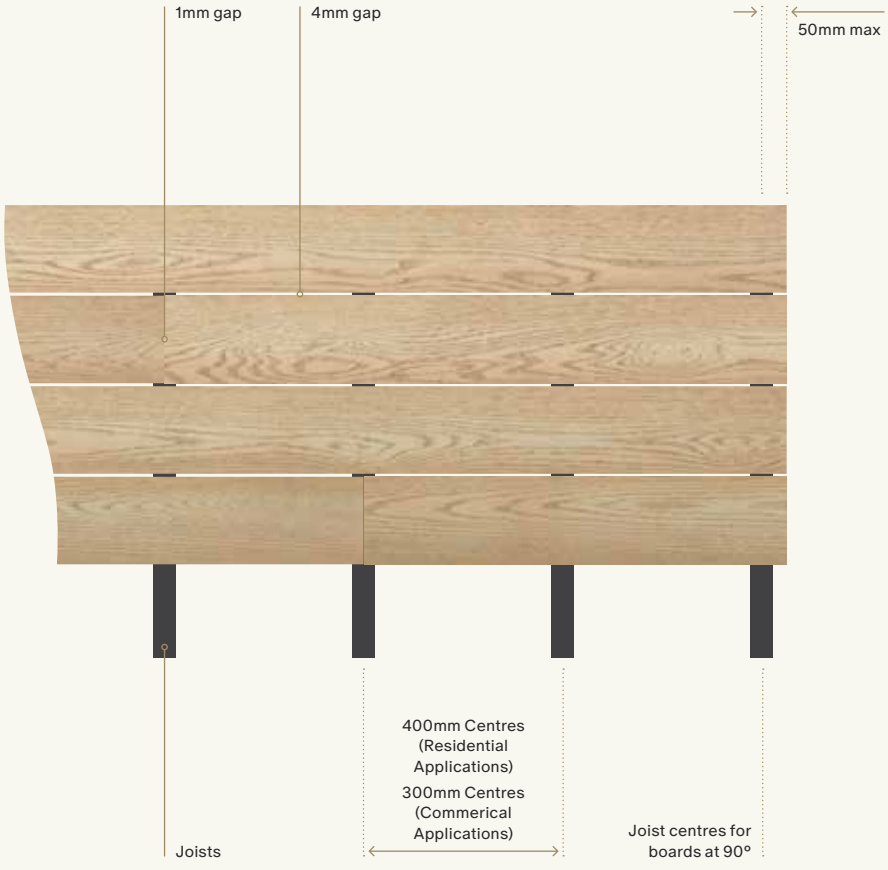
Correct subframe design is critical to the long-term performance, safety and stability of any decking installation, and must be tailored to the intended use.

The subframe provides the structural support for Millboard decking and plays a key role in the deck's durability and lifespan. While often concealed from view, its layout and spacing must be carefully planned to meet loading requirements, board layout and site-specific conditions.

JOIST SPACING

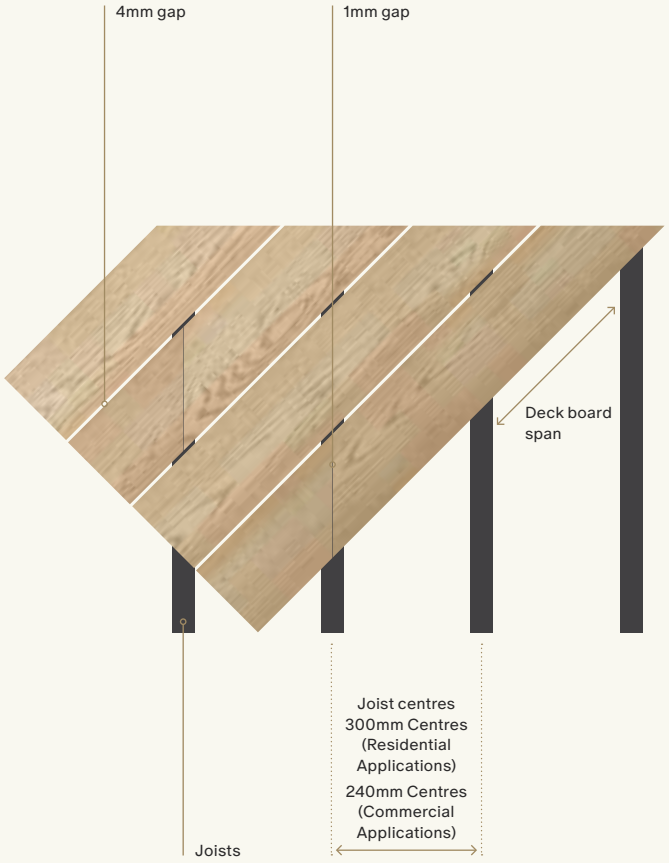
For standard residential applications, joists should be spaced at a maximum of 400mm centres. In higher-load environments—such as commercial settings, bridges, balconies or steps—joist spacing should be reduced to a maximum of 300mm centres.

Where concentrated loads are expected (e.g. spa pools or hot tubs), project-specific loading calculations must be undertaken to determine the appropriate joist configuration. It is the responsibility of the installer or specifier to ensure spans and construction details comply with relevant codes and suit the intended application.



ANGLED BOARD INSTALLATION

When installing boards at a 45° angle to the joists, joist spacing must be reduced to a maximum of 300mm centres for residential and 240mm centres for commercial use. This closer spacing accounts for the increased span between joists due to the angled orientation of the boards.

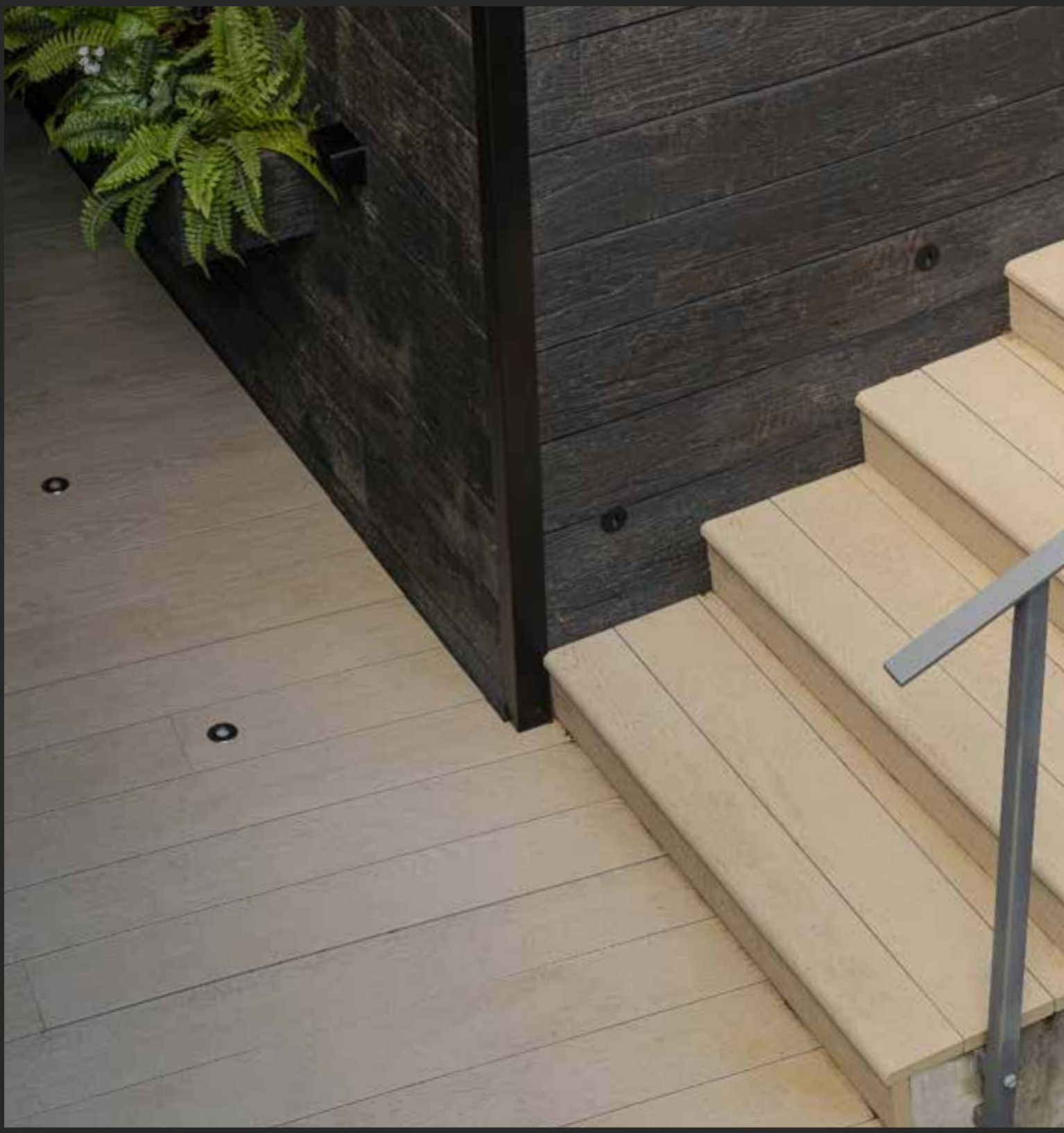


JOIST DIRECTION AND SPAN

Running joists at 90° to the board direction is generally the most efficient approach, reducing material waste and installation time. All decking boards must span a minimum of three joists to ensure adequate support.

Regardless of visibility, the subframe is a critical element of deck construction. Its correct design and layout directly influence the structural performance, alignment and longevity of the finished deck.

INSTALLATION



Millboard can be installed using either surface fixing or concealed side fixing methods. Guidance covers fixing techniques, board spacing, butt joints, fascia and edging details, curves, stairs and lighting integration. Following approved installation practices ensures structural reliability and a clean, professional result.

6.1 FIXING METHODS

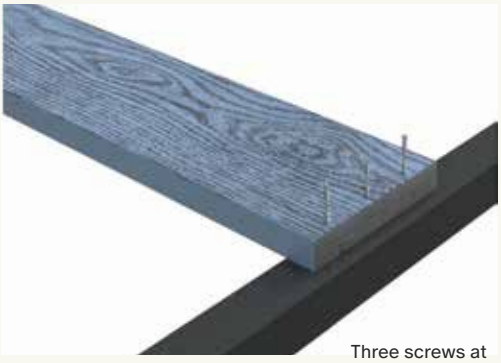
Millboard decking must be fixed using Durafix® screws, either through the face of the board or concealed using the DuoFix side-fixing tool.

When planning the installation, select the fixing method that best suits the project—surface fixing provides simplicity and speed, while side fixing offers a concealed finish. Both are compatible with Millboard decking and maintain structural integrity when installed correctly.

For timber subframes, use Durafix® 4.5 x 60mm screws. For installations on the QwickBuild aluminium subframe system, use the shorter 4.5 x 45mm screws in combination with the integrated adaptor batten.

Apply a liberal coating of silicone spray lubricant to each screw before use. This helps the screw glide cleanly through the Lastane® surface, minimising surface disruption and leaving only a minor witness mark once set.

Silicone spray on Durofix® screws



Three screws at board end

6.2 SURFACE FIXING LOST HEAD SCREW

Millboard's proprietary Durafix® screw enables secure surface fixing without visible screw heads, preserving the clean finish of the decking while ensuring structural integrity.

The Durafix® lost head screw is designed specifically for use with Millboard decking. It is driven directly through the Lastane® surface and into the board's core, finishing 5–8mm below the surface. The unique composition of the surface layer closes over the screw head, leaving no visible fixing point.

Durafix® screws must be installed using a standard power drill and the supplied driver bit. Impact drivers are not recommended, as they may damage the surface layer or drive the screw too deep.

No pre-drilling or countersinking is required. For best results, screws should be driven in one continuous, controlled motion to minimise surface disruption and ensure the Lastane® layer can recover cleanly around the fixing point.

Durafix® screw installation shown in sequence, demonstrating the correct method for achieving a concealed surface fixing.

Screw aligned above board surface prior to installation using Durafix® screw and driver bit.

Screw driven below surface with drill; Lastane layer begins to compress around the fixing.

Completed installation with no visible fixing point; the Lastane surface self-heals for a clean finish.

Illustration showing correct Durafix® screw installation depth and surface closure detail.

6.3 SIDE-FIXING GUIDE

The DuoFix Side-Fixing Guide enables consistent board alignment and concealed fixings, offering a precise and efficient solution for achieving a clean deck surface.

The guide is adjustable to match the board width, automatically setting a 6mm spacing between boards for uniform installation. Once the guide is positioned, the supplied spacers can be inserted along the board length to maintain consistent gaps across the full run.

Each side of the guide includes three screw ports to accommodate different fixing scenarios. The centre port is used for standard perpendicular fixings, while the outer ports provide options for angled screws or hard-to-access locations, such as perimeter boards or steps.

To fix, insert a Durafix® screw into the selected port and use the provided driver bit, pre-set to the correct depth. Drive the screw until the driver collar contacts the guide body—this ensures the correct depth and consistent finish without damaging the board.

The DuoFix system is designed to increase installation accuracy while maintaining a clean, concealed aesthetic

Where the first board runs against a fixed edge, such as a wall or boundary, it must be surface fixed using Durafix® screws, with the screw heads driven 5–8mm below the board surface.

Insert Multi-Spacers between the first and second boards to achieve a 6mm consistent gap, then slide the second board into place against the spacers.

Place the DuoFix Side-Fixing Guide onto the board, ensuring the locator fins on the underside are set on either side of the board. Push the ends of the Guide tight up against the sides of the decking board.

Adjust the thumbscrew by turning clockwise until the tool width matches the board. Minor adjustments may be required during installation to suit the tolerances of individual boards.

Insert a Durafix® screw into the central port of the guide. Using a drill and the provided DuoFix driver bit, fix the screw into the outside edge of the board. Apply pressure to keep the guide steady and stop driving once the collar on the bit contacts the guide, ensuring consistent depth without damaging the board surface.

Repeat the process to fix the opposite edge of the board. Continue securing the board at each joist intersection, ensuring both sides of the board are fixed at every span for structural stability.

Use the diagonal screw ports only where the central fixing point cannot be accessed—for example, when boards are tight against walls or other obstructions. These alternate ports allow for secure fixing in limited-access scenarios.

6.4 FASCIA BOARDS

Millboard fascia boards provide a clean, consistent finish to the perimeter of the deck and are designed to conceal the exposed edges of the subframe structure.

Fascia boards are flexible and can be formed to a radius of 1.2m at a 20° angle, making them suitable for curved applications around stairs, platforms and deck perimeters. They are typically used below decking and edging profiles to maintain a continuous finish and visually resolve changes in elevation.

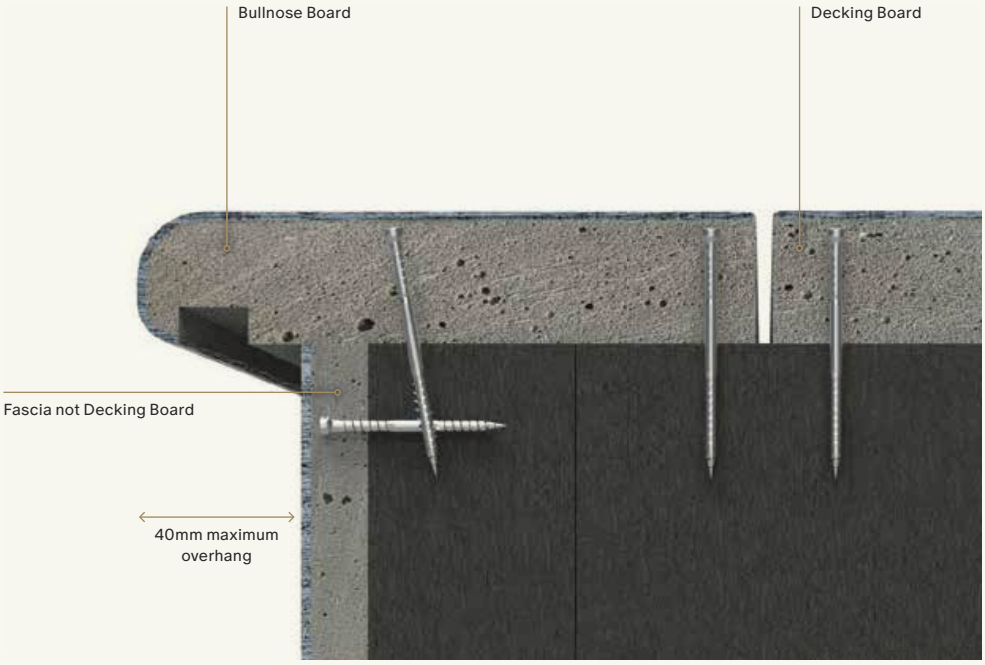
Boards should be fixed using Durafix® 4.5 x 35mm screws at 300mm centres, with a minimum of two fixings per board width to prevent movement or distortion over time.

When joining two fascia boards, a 22.5° angled back cut is recommended. This allows one board to overlap the other, creating a more discreet and visually consistent joint. Where the cut face is exposed, apply Millboard Touch-Up Coating to the upward-facing surface colour continuity.

If the joint falls on a curved section, a 45° angle cut should be used instead to allow a more natural alignment of the fascia boards around the radius.

Note: In pool environments, fascia boards should not be installed below the waterline, as they are not designed for submerged use.

FASCIA AND BULLNOSE BOARD



6.5 BULLNOSE BOARD EDGING

Millboard bullnose boards are used to define clean edges on decks, steps and seating. They also accommodate integrated lighting and provide a robust perimeter finish.

The bullnose board is a 150mm wide edging profile with a rounded front edge, designed specifically for straight-edge applications. It provides a refined finish for exposed edges while also offering compatibility with underlighting in stair or platform applications.

The maximum allowable overhang from the front face of the fascia board is 40mm. Exceeding this may compromise structural integrity or create an uneven appearance.

Boards should be surface fixed using two 4.5 x 60mm Durafix® screws per joist to ensure a secure hold along the full run. Fasteners should be evenly spaced and installed flush below the surface to maintain a clean visual line.

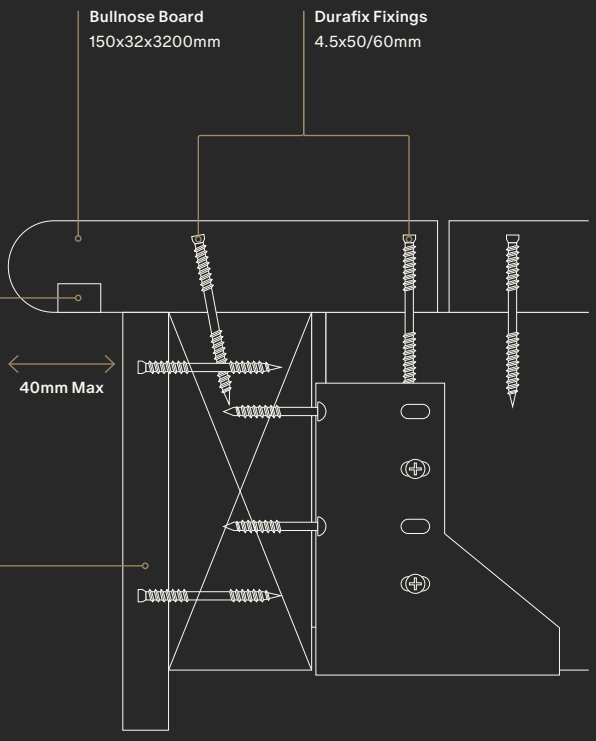
Butt joins are recommended when connecting multiple bullnose boards. Boards should be installed with tight-fitting joins to maintain alignment and reduce the visibility of seams over time.

Where LED strip lighting is to be installed beneath the bullnose edge, the cut-out must not exceed 17mm x 9mm, and must be positioned at least 11mm back from the front edge of the board. This ensures both sufficient material retention and a discreet lighting integration.

Proper fixing and finishing of bullnose boards is essential to both the performance and appearance of the deck edge.

DIAGRAM

Recessed LED strip lights should be positioned as far forward as possible, with a maximum of 11mm from the front face of the board.



LED Recess

Maximum area that can be removed 17x9mm. Note: when recessing LED strip lighting the recess must be as far forward as possible but maximum 11mm from the front face.

Fascia Board
146x16x3200mm

6.6 FLEXIBLE SQUARE EDGING

Millboard's flexible edging allows for refined curved terminations, offering design flexibility while maintaining structural integrity across non-linear edge conditions.

The flexible edging profile is 50mm wide with a square edge, specifically designed for use on curved perimeters such as circular decks, curved seating or organically shaped platforms. It can be bent to a radius of 1.2 metres (at 20°), making it suitable for tight curves without compromising appearance or stability.

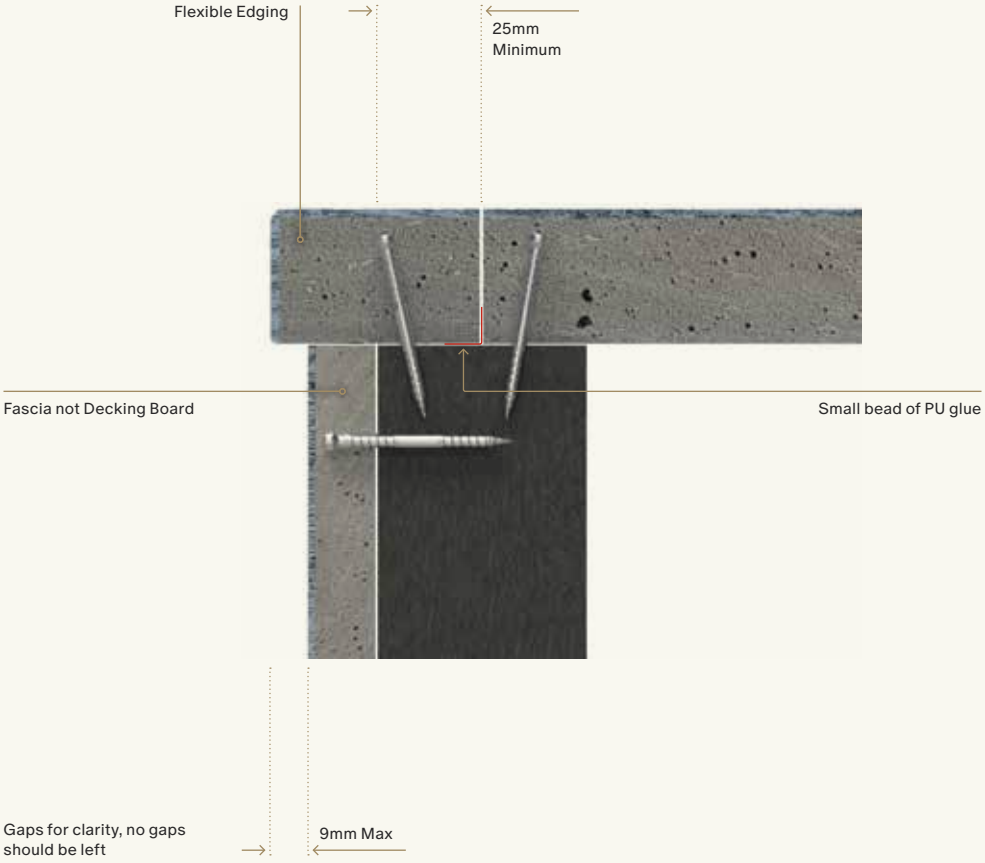
The profile must be fully supported by a joist along its entire length, with at least 25mm of joist contact at all points. The maximum allowable overhang from the front face of the fascia board is 9mm to prevent flex or deformation over time.

Installation should begin at the end with the double screw point, progressing along the curve and fixing at 150–200mm intervals. Due to the surface tension of the flexible profile, some fixings may remain partially visible. To reduce visibility and ensure a secure fit, apply silicone spray to the screws and drive the heads at least 10mm beneath the surface layer.

The edging should be installed tight against the decking boards, as this positioning provides the greatest support and helps preserve the integrity of the curved form throughout the board's service life.

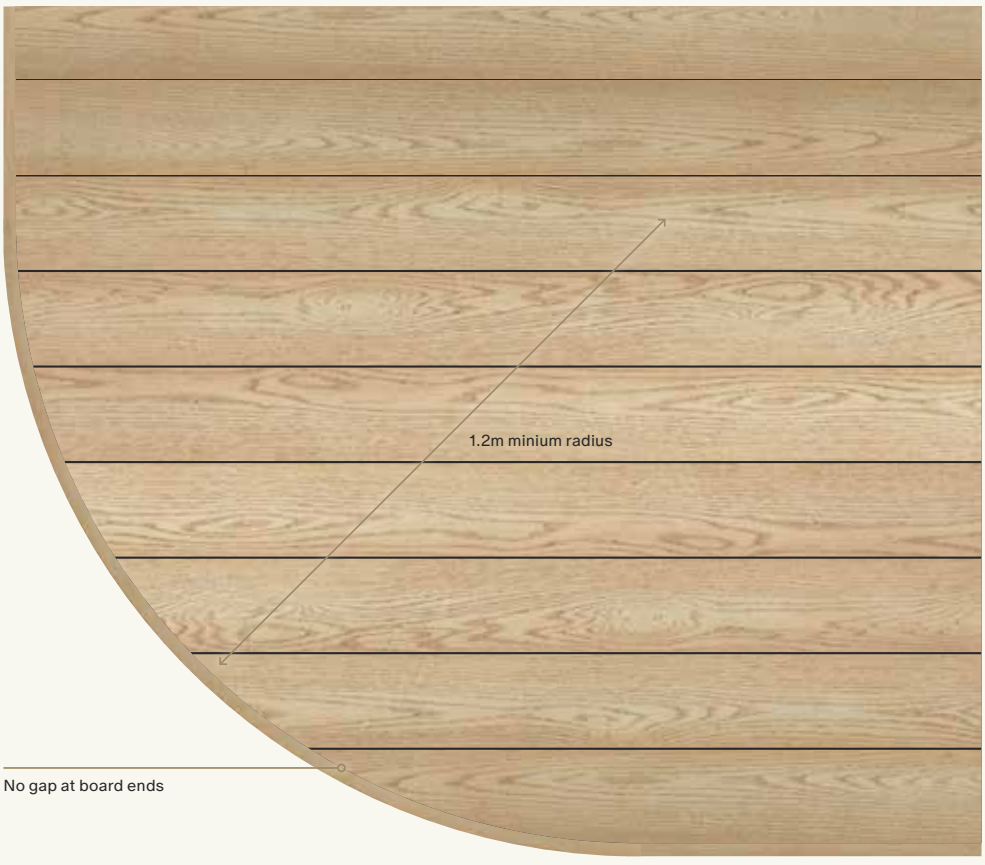
FLEXIBLE EDGING DETAILS

Illustrates fixing positions, screw depth and overhang limits for correct installation of flexible edging on curved deck edges.



EDGING USED AROUND RADIUS

Illustrates 1.2m bending radius. Edging must follow curve tightly with no visible gaps between decking board ends and flexible edging.

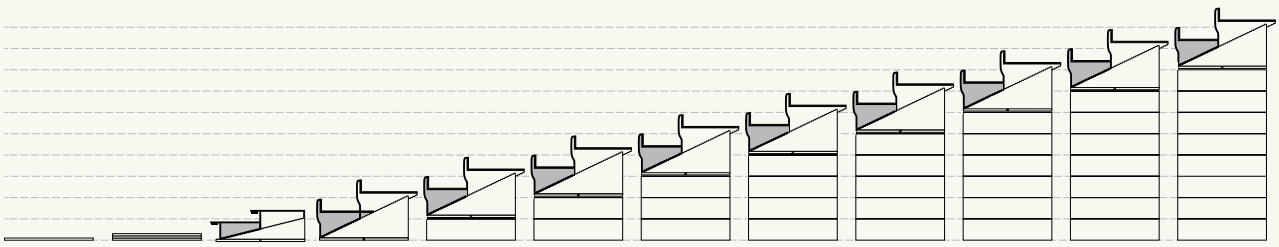


6.7 ALUMINIUM SUBFRAME FIXING

Millboard decking is fully compatible with the Outdure QwickBuild aluminium subframe system, making it ideal for low-height installations over membranes, concrete, pavers or natural ground.

The QwickBuild system provides a stable, non-timber subframe that is well-suited for environments where reduced build-up height or non-combustible construction is required. This makes it particularly useful for rooftop terraces, balconies and other applications where traditional timber framing is not feasible.

SUPPORT HEIGHT COMBINATIONS



From	3mm	3mm	15mm	35mm	65mm	95mm	125mm	155mm	185mm	215mm	245mm	275mm
To		15mm	35mm	65mm	95mm	125mm	155mm	185mm	215mm	245mm	275mm	305mm

QWICKBUILD PROFILES

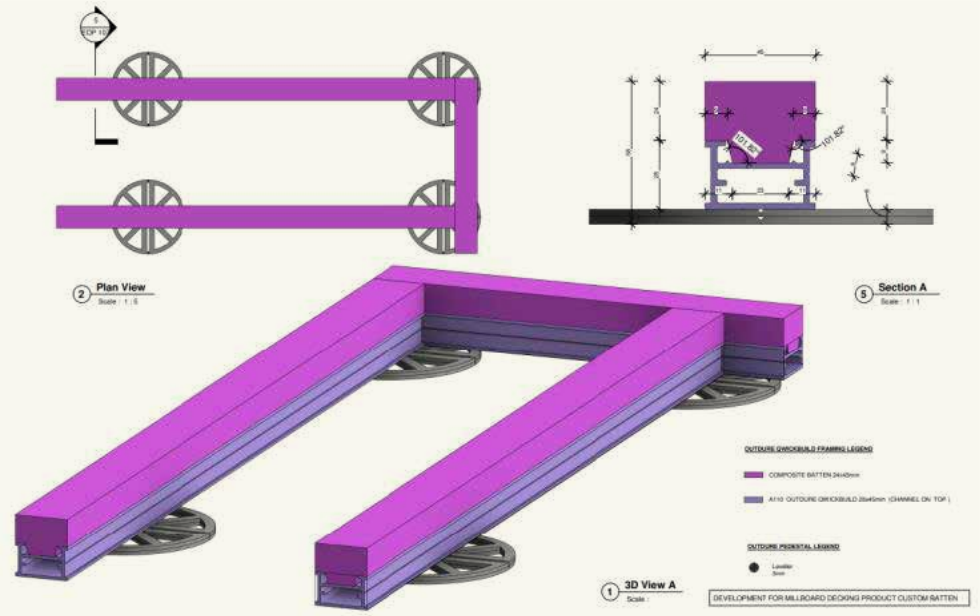
The QwickBuild aluminium subframe system offers flexibility across deck heights, making it easy to create a stable, low-maintenance substructure for Millboard decking.

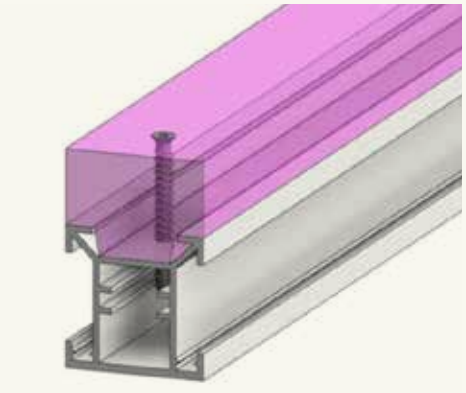
With a range of joist and bearer profiles available, QwickBuild can accommodate installations from low-height rooftop decks to full-height platforms, ensuring structural integrity across a variety of applications.

FIXING MILLBOARD TO QWICKBUILD

Millboard boards are fixed to the QwickBuild system using an integrated adaptor batten, which allows for direct screw-fixing with 4.5 x 45mm Durafix® lost head screws. This enables surface fixing without visible fasteners while maintaining the mechanical security and aesthetic quality of the installation.

The integrated batten is secured to the aluminium subframe using mechanical fixings at 400mm centres, ensuring consistent board support and load distribution. The system provides a precise, low-maintenance and dimensionally stable foundation for Millboard decking in demanding site conditions.





6.8 BUTT JOINS

Correct detailing at board junctions is essential to ensure structural stability and a clean, long-lasting finish in Millboard decking installations.

When boards are to be butt joined, they must be fitted tightly together and positioned directly over a joist to provide full support to both ends. Under no circumstances should a butt join span between joists or remain unsupported.

Each board end should be secured with two 4.5 x 45mm Durafix® screws, driven at a slight angle to maximise holding strength. Fixings should be placed approximately 20–25mm from the board end and no less than 20mm from the sides to avoid splitting and ensure structural integrity.

This method provides a stable junction while maintaining the clean surface appearance Millboard is known for. Proper execution of butt joins is particularly important on longer runs and in areas subject to foot traffic or directional change.

6.9 DECKING BOARD SPACING

Correct board spacing is essential for drainage, thermal movement and the long-term performance of a Millboard deck.

When surface fixing, we recommend a 6mm side-to-side gap between boards using the Multi Spacer, as it looks better aesthetically, however a 4mm gap can be applied without using the side fixing tool, depending on the desired look. It's important to note that the sides of Millboard decking are not always perfectly square and may feature a slight taper, which can visually affect perceived spacing if not planned for.

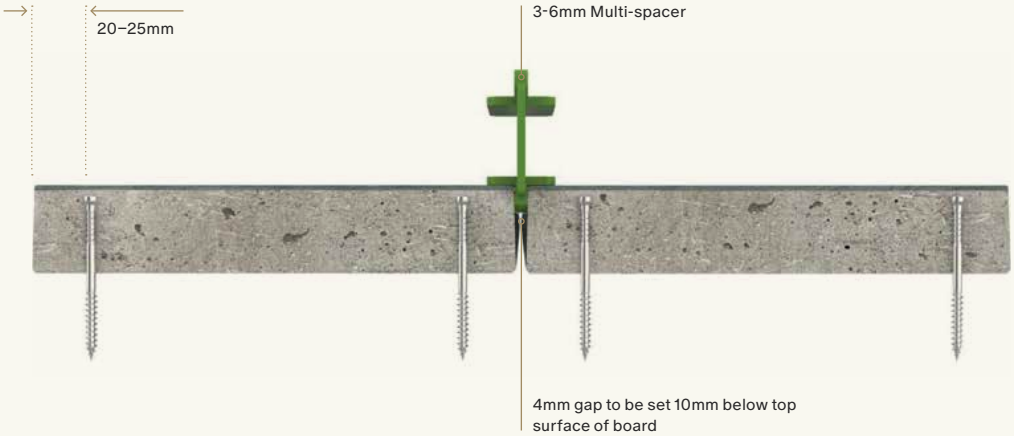
Multi-Spacers have been developed specifically for use with Millboard and allow for consistent gaps of 6mm. This spacing range supports effective water drainage while preventing dirt accumulation and minimising the risk of organic growth between boards.

Gaps smaller than 4mm can inhibit drainage and lead to debris build-up, while gaps wider than 6–7mm may pose a safety concern, particularly in areas with foot traffic—such as the risk of small objects or heels becoming lodged.

When installing boards using the DuoFix Side-Fixing Guide, a consistent 6mm board spacing is automatically set by the tool.

Regardless of fixing method, all boards must be supported by a minimum of three joists to maintain structural stability and prevent deflection under load.

GAPS BETWEEN BOARDS



GENERAL GAPPING ON BOARDS

6.10 DECKING BOARD ALIGNMENT

Accurate setout is essential to achieving a uniform finish across the deck. Alignment should be checked regularly throughout installation to maintain visual consistency and structural accuracy.

Accurate setout is essential to achieving a uniform finish across the deck. Alignment should be checked regularly throughout installation to maintain visual consistency and structural accuracy.

Always begin the first row of decking boards using a string line to establish a straight datum. Fix one end of the board first, then progress along its length, securing it at the predetermined fixing centres while adjusting to maintain alignment with the string line as required.

As best practice, avoid fixing the ends of boards until the next board is offered into position. This allows for real-time adjustments and ensures that board spacing and alignment are consistent before final fixings are applied.

For large deck areas with long straight runs, it is often more efficient to first install every fifth row of boards to a string line. This establishes key reference lines across the deck. Then infill with four rows of boards between each string-aligned row, using Multi-Spacers to maintain consistent gapping. Once positioning has been confirmed, these intermediate rows can be fixed off.

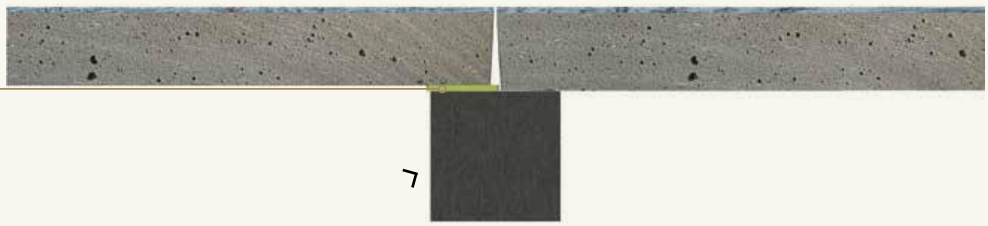
Where slight differences in board width or thickness occur—common with moulded products—packers may be used, or boards may be planed (by a minimum of 2mm) to ensure a level surface across adjacent boards. Regular checking during installation will reduce cumulative deviation and avoid uneven gaps or surface irregularities.

GAPS AROUND THE EDGE

Allow a consistent gap around the perimeter to accommodate ventilation, drainage and any thermal movement.

PACKERS UNDER THE BOARD

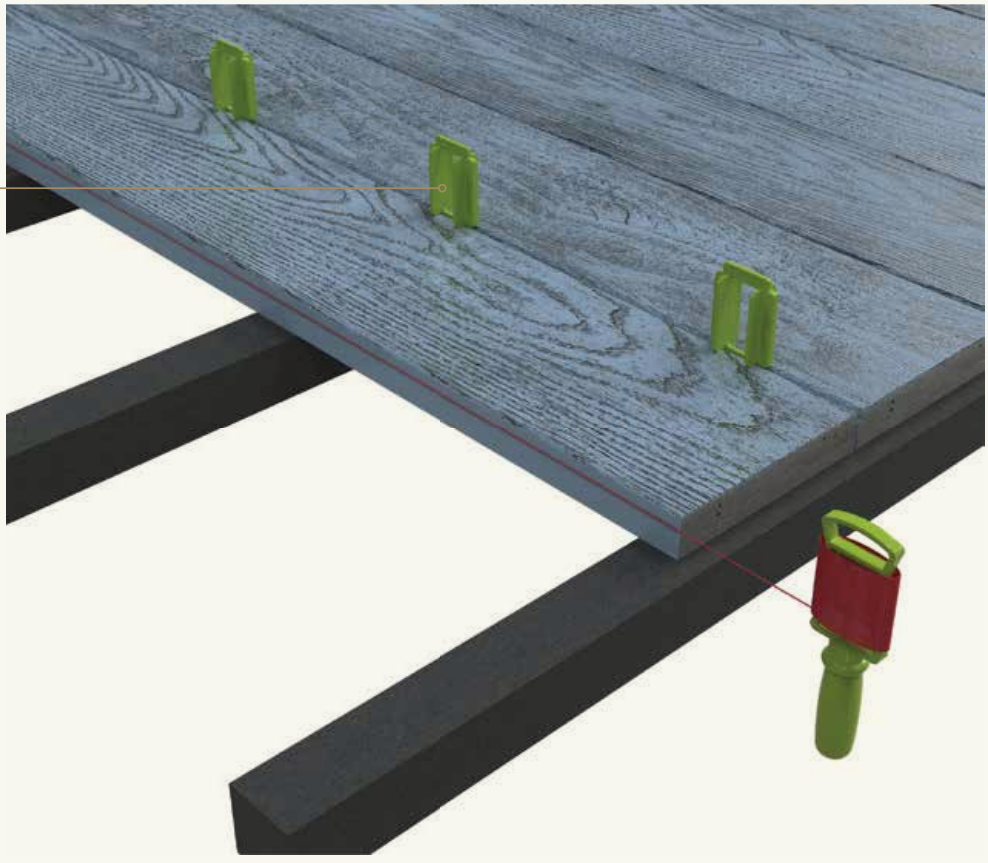
Packers or planing (by up to 2mm) may be used to correct minor thickness variations and ensure a smooth, level transition between adjacent boards.



Packers to achieve a level finish

CHECK BOARD AGAINST A STRING-LINE

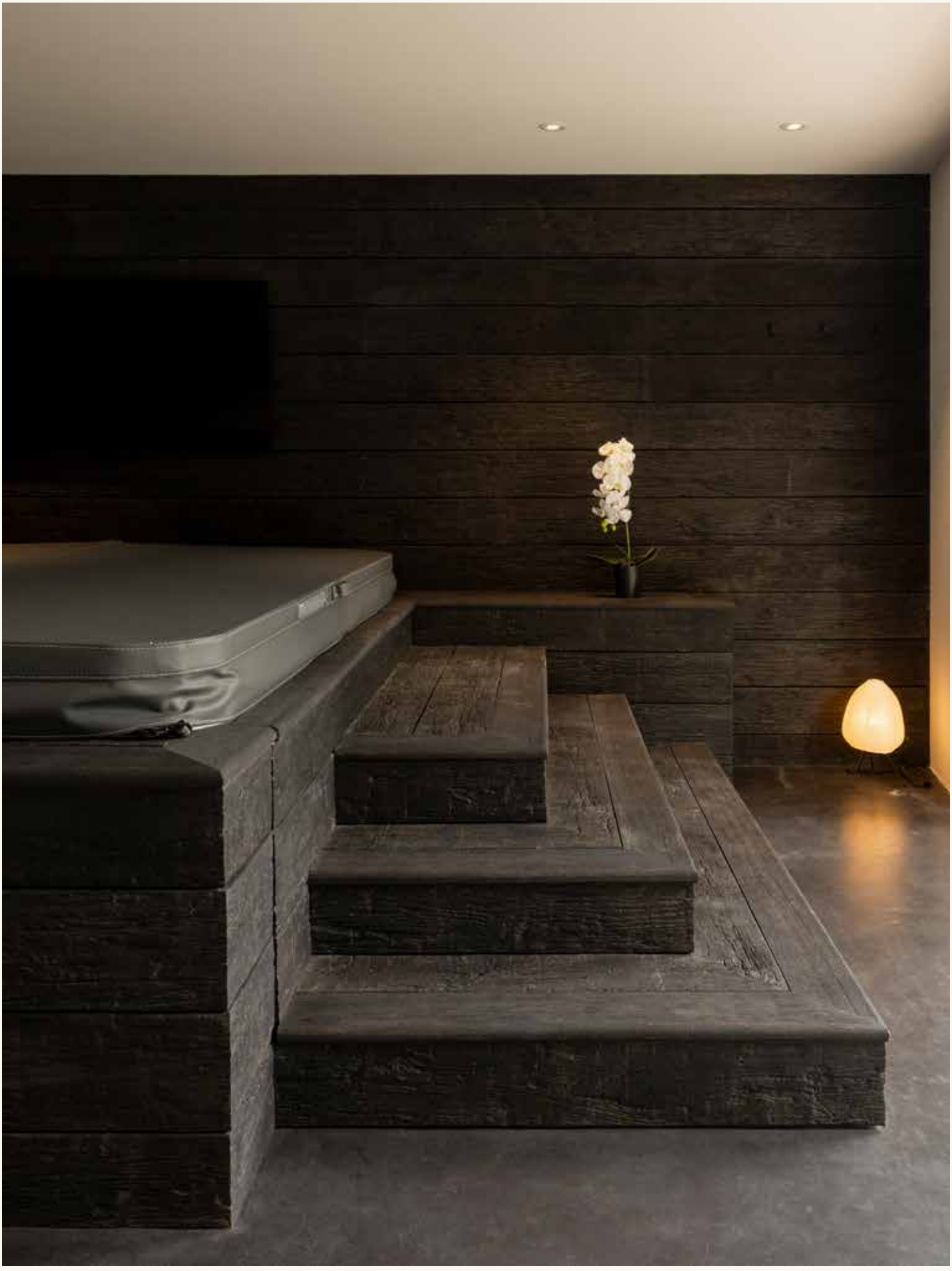
Always align each board with a string line to maintain straight, consistent rows across the deck.



Multi-spacers

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Although low maintenance, Millboard should be cleaned periodically to remove surface debris and maintain appearance. Use soft brushes, warm soapy water or a fan-tip pressure washer within specified limits. Care during and after installation—including safe storage and prompt cleaning—helps protect the surface and reduce the risk of damage.



7.1 CLEANING

Ongoing maintenance is essential to preserve the appearance and performance of Millboard decking. Proper storage and periodic cleaning will help minimise surface damage and long-term wear.

During installation, boards should be stored away from cement dust, mortar splatter or construction debris, as contact with these materials can cause permanent surface staining or abrasion. Where boards form part of a broader building site, ensure they are protected until final handover.

If boards become dirty during installation, they should be cleaned immediately using warm soapy water and a soft brush, or a pressure washer where appropriate. Prompt cleaning prevents contaminants from bonding to the surface.

Millboard recommends cleaning the deck 1–2 times per year to remove organic matter, airborne pollutants and general surface dirt. When cleaning, begin at one end of the deck and work along the grain direction. A soft-bristled brush with an extendable handle is ideal for effective coverage.

Pressure washers may be used provided they meet the following criteria:

— Maximum pressure of 2000 PSI

— Fitted with a fan tip offering a 40–60° spray spread

— Maintain a minimum distance of 250–300mm from the surface during use

Before proceeding, test in an inconspicuous area to confirm compatibility. Prolonged or close contact with high-pressure water can damage the Lastane® surface layer, particularly at board ends or cut edges.

Extra care should be taken around doors, windows and joins, where excess pressure may affect sealants or coatings. For stubborn marks, a range of surface-specific cleaners may be used, depending on the nature of the residue. Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when using chemical cleaners on Millboard products.

Forté