

step 1: build your frame

Prepare the area where the decking is being fitted. If fitting the decking over soil or grass always use a membrane to prevent weed growing through at a later date. Build the frame of the decking by making the outer area first. Nail or screw this as shown in diagram below.

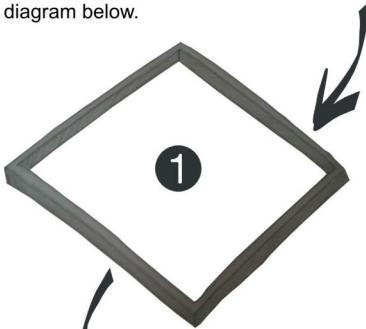
deck

Noggin tip

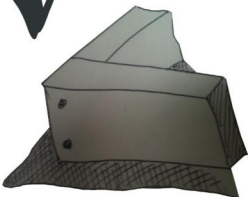
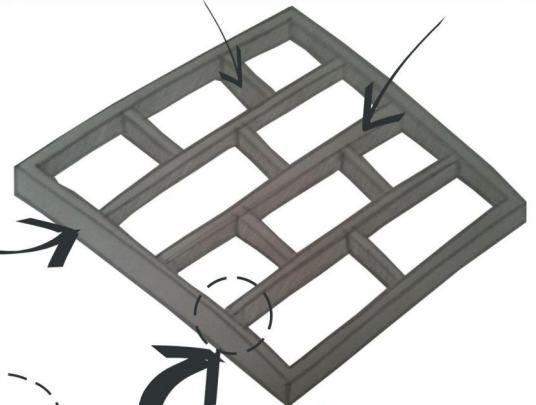
Cut the noggins all the same size - so when putting the joists into the frame they will all be the same distance

Joist tip

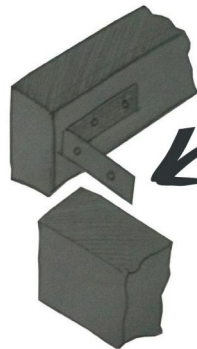
Never use less than **75mm x 50mm** for decking as it's usually not strong enough to support the boards.



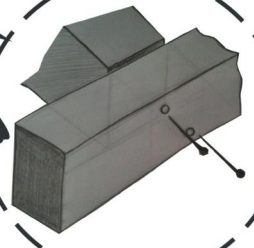
2 Once the outer edges of the frame are made, add the **joists** and **noggins**. The joists are the main body of the frames and usually take the main weight of the deck. The noggins are the smaller sections which run across and stiffen the frames up.



Weed-stopper: when on grass use a membrane to prevent growth and weeds



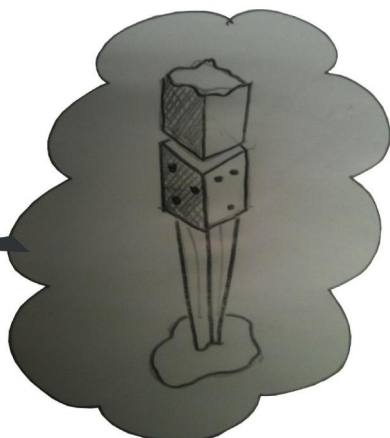
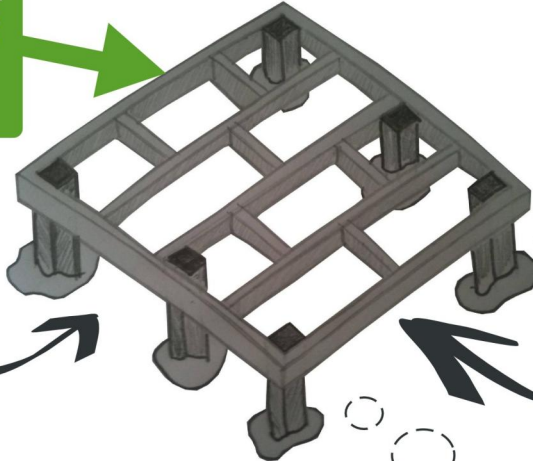
Framing tip
When making the frames always use a minimum of two nails or screws which will stop the timber twisting. Another option would be to use 'L'-brackets for corners and joist



3 If you're having your deck raised off the ground, you'll need to add either some posts /brick or block to provide the extra height. Here we are using treated timber 4" x 4" posts, which have been concreted into the ground.

Top tip

When constructing a raised deck, sometimes it's easier to lift the deck to the correct height with temporary timber legs, adding the larger post when you have decided on the exact height and position.

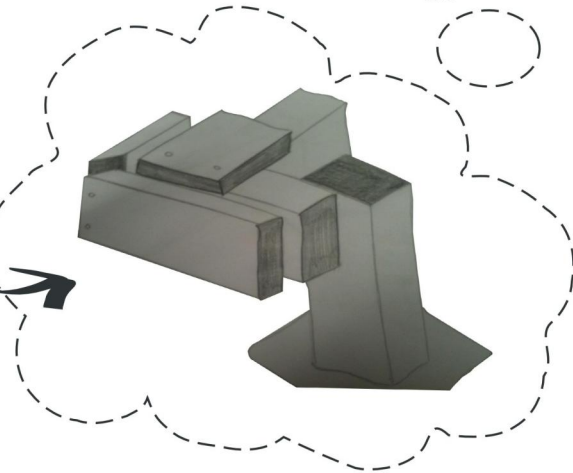


Joist hangers

Rather than just nailing or screwing through the timber frame, you can support the joists by using joist hangers which can be nailed on very

Plan ahead

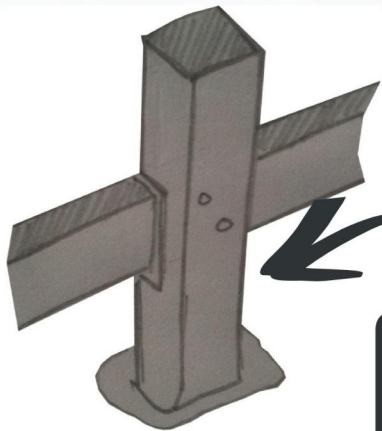
Try and think about how the decking boards will look when finished. If the frame and the posts are not flush and level the boards will not sit flat.



Posts tip

Rather than using concrete to support the posts, metal shoes can be used to support the posts in the ground. This is sometimes easier than using concrete.

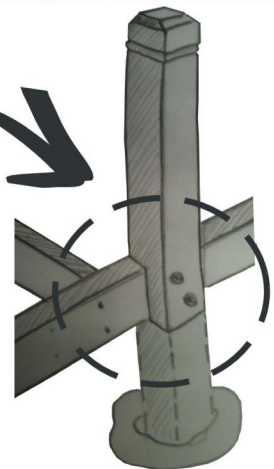
Fixing newels:



4

Adding Newel Post

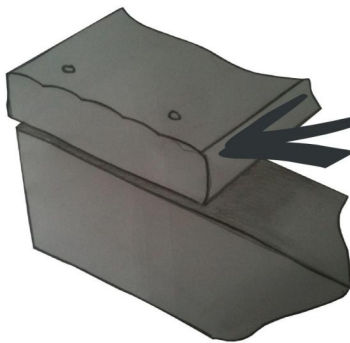
This needs to be done before the decking. The newel posts need to be notched out around the joists and bolted with two coach bolts.



5 Adding the deck boards

When it's time to put the decking boards on, make sure that you take time to look how the deck boards will finish on the edges.

Try putting a couple of boards on and offer up the fascia board to see how it will look. You may need to think this through first, before you start laying the boards. Always use two screws to secure the boards and stop the decking from 'cupping.' Decking can shrink after fitting so be careful not to leave a large gap, as this will get larger when the board dries out. 2mm is the max gap needed.



6

When newel posts have been fixed to the frame, it is important to get the finish of the deck-board correct. This will mean cutting around the newel post and slotting the deck board over to create a neat finish.

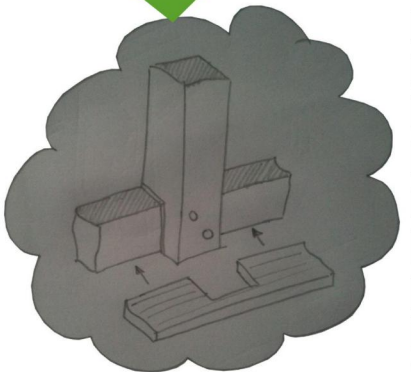
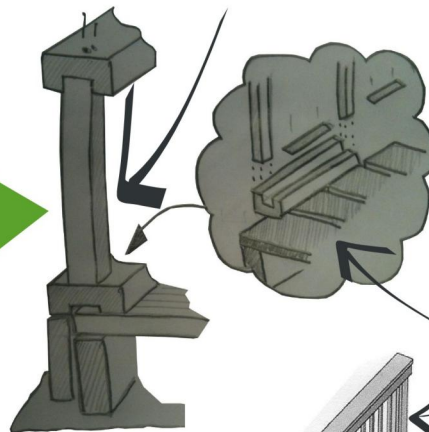
7a. spindle fixing tip:

Adding Spindles: if you mark the handrail at every 120mm with a pencil mark and nail from the top it will make it alot easier to construct. Turn the base up-side down and do the same again. This will

Fixing Handrails:

7 Handrails:

This is usually the most time consuming and expensive area of the job. Make it easy for yourself by pre-making the hand-rail sections on a nice flat area. There are two techniques when making hand-rail sections, as shown here. Once the sections are made up you can fix the sections to the newels with I-brackets or clips.



7b. traditional fixing:

Using a base-rail with a fillet is the traditional way of fitting spindles, but can be more arkward and time consuming than other new techniques.

8 The Finishing touches:

The finishing of the deck is important, making sure that screws and nails are buried properly, bolts fastened and handrails secured. It is also worth sanding down any areas that will be regularly touched with your hands such as hand-rails and stair. It is also important to keep upto date with treatment.. remember that timber needs protection from the elements to keep it looking good all year round.

