

Installation instructions Platowood Fraké decking boards

For an extended lifespan of the decking boards and joists, the correct method of installation is important. Therefore, read the instructions below carefully before installation.

Transport and storage

1. If you are not going to install the decking immediately after purchase, it is important that the decking boards are transported and stored horizontally with care. Ensure proper support of the product so that the boards do not bend (figure 1).
2. It is also important to store the wood dry and protect it against weather influences such as sunlight. Leave the protective foil in place as long as you are not using the product. Note: if the foil is damaged, moisture stains may occur.



Figure 1 – Store untreated wood in the correct way

Installation

1. The ends of the decking boards and joists must be sealed with a suitable sealer (available via Platowood). This prevents moisture from penetrating the wood through the end grain and sawn edges. Ideally repeat this once or twice more. Make sure that the sealer does not get on the visible side of the decking boards, as this can cause stains that may remain visible for a long time.
2. It is not necessary to finish the decking boards with a coating. The wood will weather naturally without this affecting the quality and lifespan.
3. Good ventilation is important. Therefore, keep at least 20 mm free around the decking.
4. Use a root-resistant fabric to prevent vegetation from growing under the decking.
5. Ensure a maximum spacing of 50 cm between the joists.
6. Do not place the substructure/beams directly on the ground/soil, but support them at least every 50 cm, for example by using posts. If this is not possible due to the height in relation to, for example, the house door, you can use paving slabs in combination with rubber pads. This ensures that the joists are at least 10 mm above the slab. This prevents the substructure/beams from remaining damp for long periods (especially in winter). In principle, the more space between the ground and the underside of the decking boards, the better.
7. Install the entire decking with a slope of at least 1° (= 1 cm per linear meter). This is important to prevent standing water and to direct the water towards the garden/drain.
8. For an extended lifespan and sound absorption, use our Cobra Bitudeck Tape. This should be applied between the substructure/beams and the decking boards. One roll of tape covers 10 meters of substructure.
9. Ensure at least 7 mm space between the decking boards (laterally) and where the end grain meets. We recommend using our Cobra Hybrid Mounting Clips (approx. 90 clips per 5 m²). For a video of this installation technique [click here](#).
10. To fasten the first and last boards of the decking to the joists we have special Cobra End Clips. Together with our mounting clips this provides the best result. Note: the Cobra End Clip must only be fastened with the lower screw hole.

Tips for installing and cleaning decking

It is best to install a new wooden decking in a sunny or semi-shaded location. Avoid places with trees nearby. This causes the wood to become damp more quickly and increases the risk of slipping due to algae growth.

To keep the decking clean it is best to use a stiff broom and water with a little soft soap. We advise against using a high-pressure cleaner. This causes the wood fibres to stand up, making the decking get dirty faster and possibly causing splinters.

To prevent vermin under your decking, you can optionally use a ventilation profile. This is available at most DIY stores.