DESIGNBOARD

BRUSHED & GROOVED COMPOSITE DECKING


Brushed Chestnut Decking


Brushed Dark Ash Decking


Brushed Pebble Grey Decking


Brushed Warm Teak Decking


Grooved Chestnut Decking


Grooved Dark Ash Decking


Grooved Pebble Grey Decking


Grooved Warm Teak Decking

Product Guide Introduction

The perfect combination of nature and technology, DesignBoard Brushed & Grooved is a brand-new range of exterior decking that combines all the attractive qualities of timber with the reliability and low maintenance of composite. DesignBoard Brushed & Grooved is supplied in a range of 4 colours with the option of a brushed or grooved surface finish to accommodate traditional and contemporary settings.

This guide has been designed to provide the information you need to install DesignBoard Brushed & Grooved composite decking in a variety of different site conditions, with ease. You will find detailed information on all the tools that you will need along with top tips to ensure a seamless installation and finished deck.

This guide is intended for installing DesignBoard in a domestic setting only and is NOT suitable for commercial applications. For further information and commercial installation advice please contact: **info@designboard.uk.com**

Installation Top Tips

Always leave a minimum 4mm expansion gap at the end of all boards. This includes where two boards meet and where two fascia boards meet.

Double joists should be used where two boards meet together and a separate clip should be used at the end of each board.

The end of a board against a boundary, brickwork, door frames etc. should have a 10mm gap.

No edge or end should be touching any other surface. This allows for possible expansion and contraction due to varying temperature and possible flexing of the frame.

Although we recommend a composite sub-frame is used for installation, we understand not all budgets stretch to this. If you are using a treated timber sub-frame consider using a timber paint/stain such as Cuprinol on the timber prior to installing the DesignBoard. Not only will it protect the sub-frame and improve longevity, if you use a colour similar to the colour of your chosen DesignBoard it will help hide the sub-frame from being seen through the joints. Please ensure you follow the paint manufacturer's guide as it will be necessary for the pressure-treated wood to be completely dry before applying a paint or staining treatment.

If using a timber sub-frame, frame should be a minimum of 60mm off the ground including fascias to allow for airflow and use a C4 treated timber with minimum 20 year lifespan. Always treat the ends of cut timber joists.

Whether using a composite or timber subframe, we would always recommend using composite posts. This will ensure that no timber is in direct contact with the ground and improve the longevity of your frame.

When a deck is adjoining the property, ensure that the sub-frame is at least 50mm away from the property and the boards are at least 10mm away to avoid damp transfer.

Floor level decks must be a full composite sub-frame as there will be no airflow and timber would rot in this application.

Plastic packers can be used where required to aid installation. Composite and timber frames are not always dimensionally perfect, and if for any reason you require packing-out a fascia or deck board, be sure to use a weatherproof packer. You can purchase packs of mixed size plastic packers from all good DIY stores.

Before fixing any decking boards, use a metal square to check that the frame is square. Joist Centres should be a maximum of 400mm for a domestic garden application. For a commercial application contact us for further information.

The length (long edge) of DesignBoard will expand in heat and contract in colder temperatures. The width (short edge) will not expand or contract.

Prior to the installation of DesignBoard, we recommend that boards are stored in a cool/shaded area for 24 – 48 hours to allow the boards to be at their normal size during installation. A garage or well-shaded area is an ideal place to store the boards prior to beginning the installation process.

The Tools You Need

Before cutting boards to length - We advise checking each end of the deck boards prior to cutting. If there are any small chips or defects, simply trim 4 – 10mm from the end to create a more precise finish. Due to the manufacturing process of DesignBoard, the ends of some of the boards may have small chips. Although not considered a defect, taking time to even the ends of the boards prior to cutting will improve the overall finish of the installation.

DesignBoard should be installed with a recommended slope of 1.5cm per metre to facilitate water drainage.

Due to DesignBoard being manufactured from 50% natural fibres there will be an element of colour variation. We advise to mix the boards on site prior to installation to spread any possible variation throughout the project and give a more natural appearance

DesignBoard Composite Decking is straightforward to install using the same tools that you would use to construct a standard timber deck. Here is the list of all the tools that you will need to build your DesignBoard deck.

Tools List

— Tape measure
— Carpenters pencil
— Work bench/tresles
— Multi-tool
— Long spirit level
— Bench mounted chop saw
— Battery drill driver with spare battery
— Assorted drill bits
— Screwdriver bits (Torx Posi)
— Countersink
— Set square
— Plastic packers/spacers
— Dust mask
— Eye protection
— Ear protection
— Extension cable
— Gloves
— Posthole diggers

Sub-frame Construction

Plan the positions of your posts and joists prior to beginning. Planning ahead takes time but will pay dividends during the construction. The sub-frame can be constructed from composite or timber but we would always recommend composite for reasons of longevity.

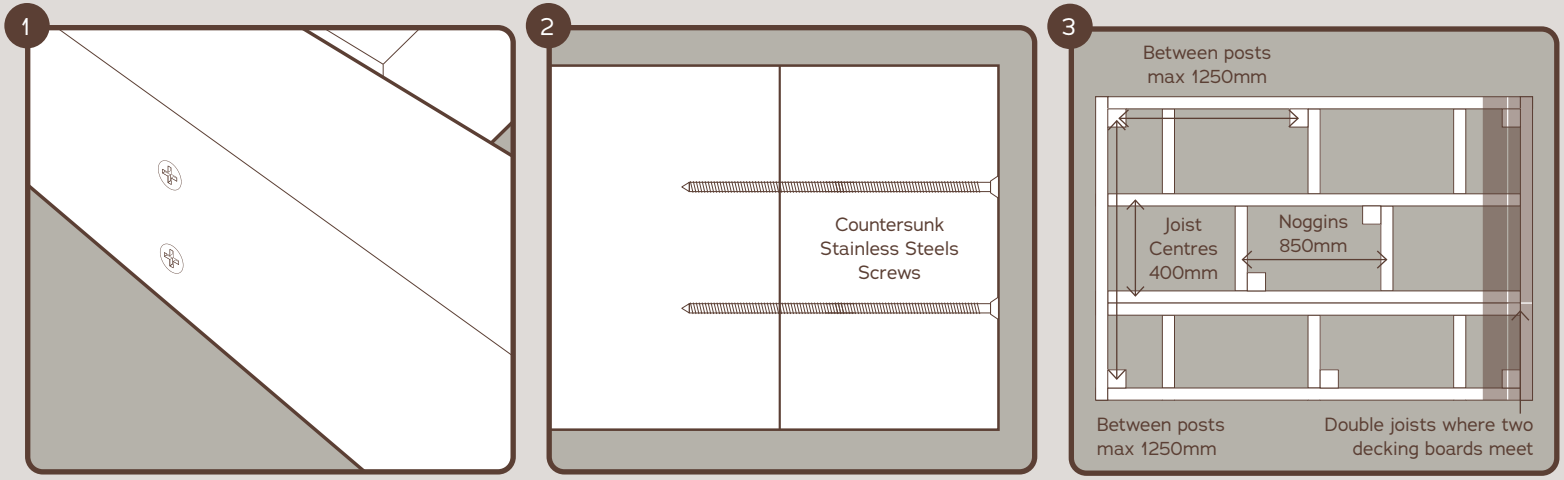
The sub-frame can sit on a full concrete base, intermittent concrete pads/blocks or be fixed to posts (the posts can either be concreted in the ground or sit upon concrete pads). Posts should be concreted into the ground by a minimum of 400mm or 1/3 of the length of the post if greater than this.

If you intend to fit a fascia to the front or side of the deck, the screws used to build the sub-frame will need to be countersunk. Countersink bits are available from any good DIY store **(see illustrations 1 & 2).**

When using composite, be sure to pilot hole all fixings with a drill bit approximately 1.5mm smaller than the screw you are fixing to approximately 2/3 of the depth of the screw. We recommend using 6.3mm x 90mm – 100mm Hex Head Timber Screws or Hex Head Coach Screws.

The spacing between posts, joists and noggins must not exceed the recommended spacing as detailed below **(see illustration 3).**
Please note - Inner joists should not span greater than 1500mm without an additional post being installed, as shown in the centre of illustration 3.

Top tip – You can't over support your decking, but you can under support, be sure not to cut corners and stretch the spacings further than recommended.



Spacing The Decking

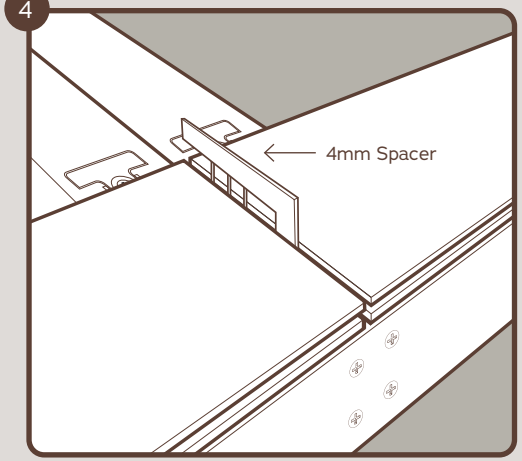
Plan the position of where two deck boards meet. Planning ahead takes time but will pay dividends during the construction.

Double joists should be used where two boards meet, and a sperate clip should be used at the end of each board **(see illustration 4).**
You can create full double joists or simply fix an additional section of joist to an existing joist at the position where the two boards meet together.

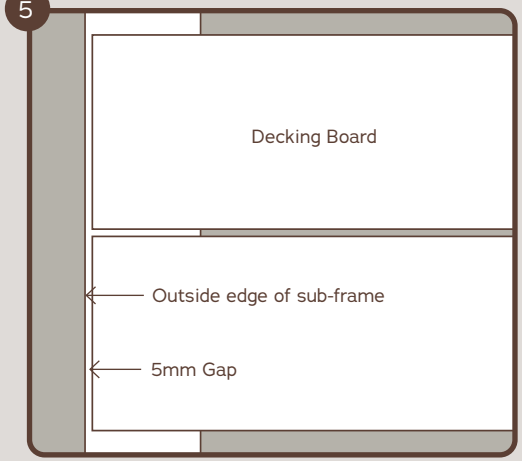
Use a 4mm spacer between boards. This allows for any expansion in the material and is an ESSENTIAL step **(see illustration 4).**

Note, if you are planning to install a side fascia, the decking boards should finish 5mm inside the outside edge of the sub frame **(see illustration 5).**

4



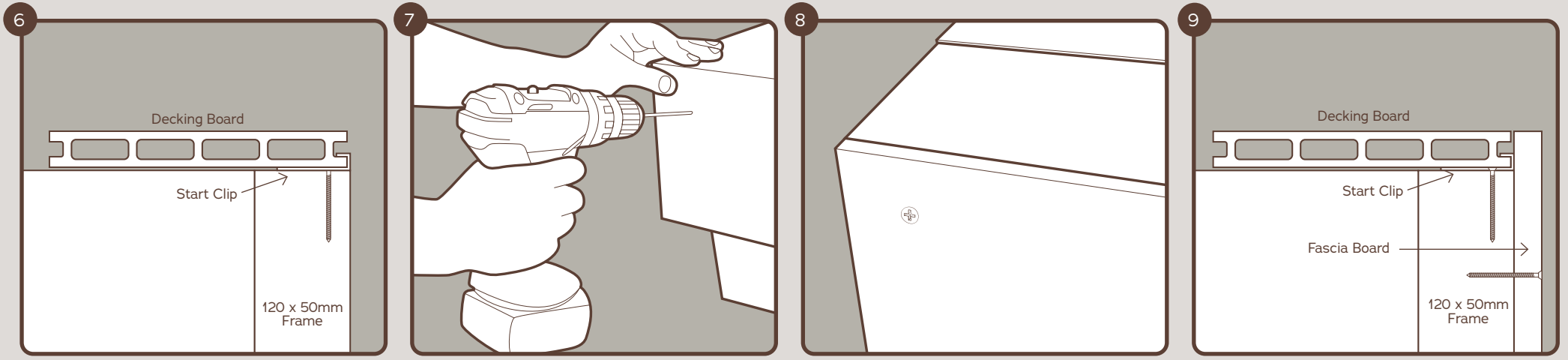
5



Installing First Board and Fascia

Starting Your Decking Installation
The first board is fixed using the DesignBoard Brushed & Grooved Start Clip, positioned every 400mm, simply line the start clips up with the edge of the sub-frame and screw to the sub-frame, ensure all clips are in a straight line. Then screw the fascia to the sub-frame using pre-drilled and countersunk DesignBoard Colour Match Screws. Where possible, use a screw at the top and bottom of the fascia, coming in a minimum of 25mm in from the edge. If this is not possible, fix in the centre of the fascia. The Fascia must be fixed a minimum of every 500mm. **(see illustrations 6, 7, 8 & 9).**

Installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws
For more information on installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws please watch our simple installation **video**



Installing The Hidden Clips On The First Board

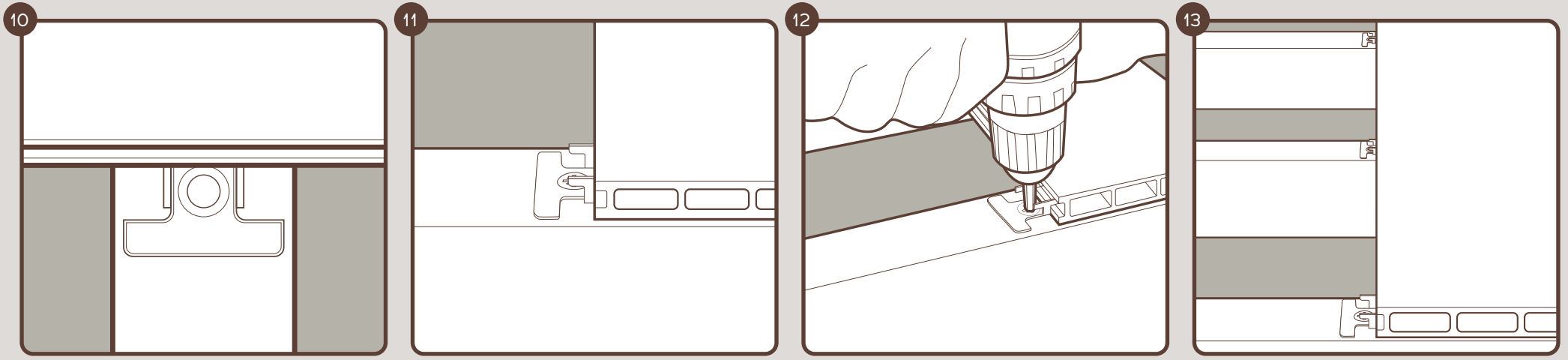
It's now time to install the second run of decking boards. DesignBoard Composite Decking is designed to be fitted using an invisible clip system that gives an automatic 4mm gap between the long edge of the boards.

Slide your first row of clips into position in the centre of each joist until they sit snugly into the groove on the underside of the decking boards **(see illustration 10).**

The wider side of the clips should face outwards so that the clip screw hole is fully exposed **(see illustration 11).**

Apply pressure with your hand or knee (or get someone else to), ensuring the decking board is pushed up firmly against the start clips with no movement. Screw the clip into position using a DesignBoard screw **(see illustration 12).**

Complete this step on every joist until the whole first run of decking boards is clipped into position **(see illustration 13).**

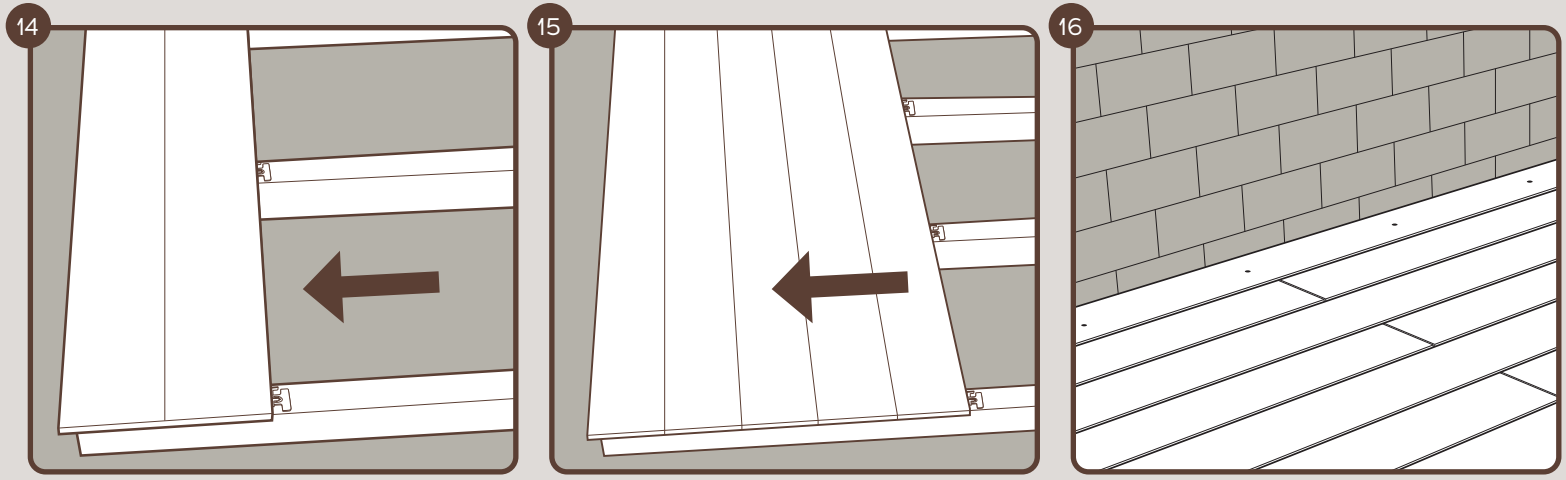


Installing The Remaining Deck Boards

Slide your next run of decking boards into the clips and then insert the next run of clips into position. Apply pressure with your hand or knee (or get someone else to), ensuring the decking board is pushed up firmly against the clips and then screw the clips into position. Complete this until all the boards are in position **(see illustrations 14 & 15).**

The final deck board will need to be screwed into place, one side of the final board is held in position with the final run of clips. The other 'open side' which is usually against the property will need manual fixing using pre-drilled and countersunk DesignBoard Colour Match Screws **(see illustration 16).**

Installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws
For more information on installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws please watch our simple installation **video**



Installing a Side Fascia

The side of the DesignBoard Brushed & Grooved shows the hollow profile. This profile reduces the weight of the product while keeping its structural integrity **(see illustration 17).**

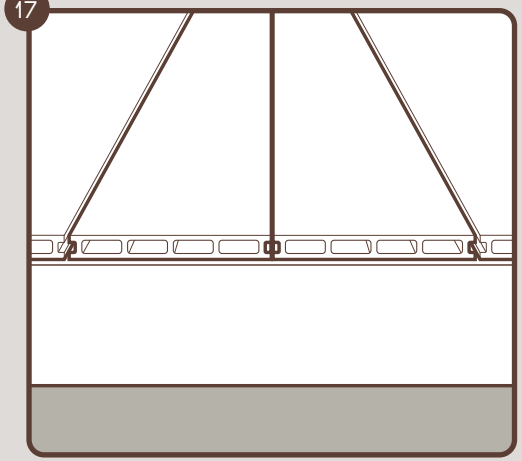
If the side of the deck is on display, the profile and the sub-frame should be covered up with a side fascia.

When a side fascia is required, the decking boards should finish 5mm inside the outside edge of the sub frame. This allows for a side fascia to be fitted to the edge of the sub-frame while still leaving an expansion gap between the inside edge of the fascia and the outside edge of the decking board **(see illustration 18).**

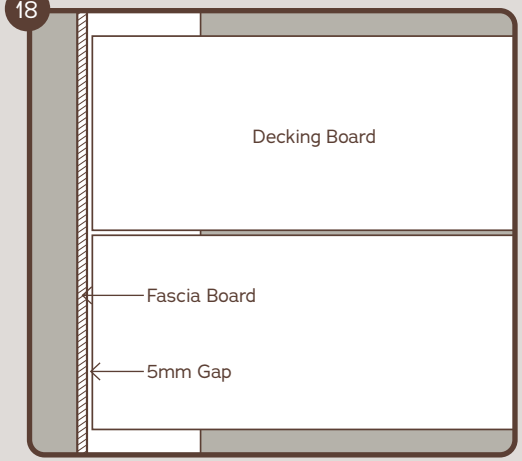
Then screw the fascia to the sub-frame using pre-drilled and countersunk DesignBoard Colour Match Screws. Where possible, use a screw at the top and bottom of the fascia, coming in a minimum of 25mm in from the edge. If this is not possible, fix in the centre of the fascia. The Fascia must be fixed a minimum of every 500mm **(see illustration 19).**

Installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws
For more information on installing DesignBoard Colour Match Screws please watch our simple installation **video**

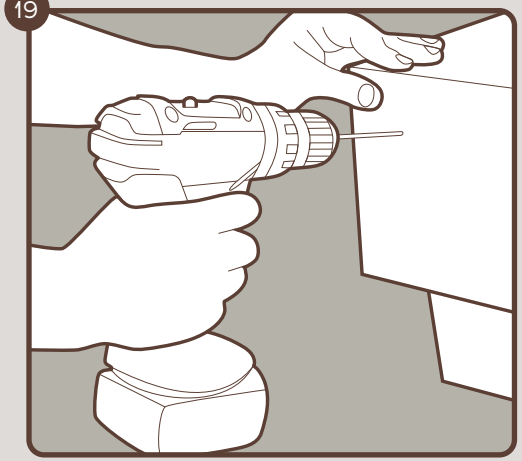
17



18



19



Frequently Asked Questions

Is every piece the same or is there a range of pattern variations?
The base colour of the material is the same but there is a range of different patterns to provide variation to the surface finish.

Can DesignBoard be used to build furniture? e.g. a bench, bin store etc.
DesignBoard can be used in many ways provided it has the benefit of support every 400mm and the 4mm gap between boards (as set out in the installation guide) is adhered to. Ideally, you would still use the clip system, but the boards can be screwed from the face or the underside if necessary. We would not advise using it as either a countertop or in the construction of any furniture which is likely to have a burner installed.

How do I cut DesignBoard?
Designboard can be cut using the same cutting equipment that's used to cut timber decking. For best results use a bench mounted drop saw.

Does DesignBoard Expand?
Yes, Designboard will expand in heat. Prior to installation we recommend that boards are stored in a cool/shaded area for 24-48 hours to allow the boards to be at their normal size during installation.

Is DesignBoard easy to clean?
A jetwash should remove most marks and dirt. Please refer to Cleaning and Maintenance Guide.

Can I put a fire pit or fire bowl onto my DesignBoard?
This depends upon the heat exposure and type of fire pit that you are intending on installing.

— Wood burning fire pit or chiminea
No, as the heat exposure is too great and there is a potential risk of embers landing onto the deck causing damage.

— Ethanol fire bowls / tables
As these tend to have minimal heat output they should be fine providing that they are raised by a minimum of 300mm and are not constructed entirely of metal.

— Gas fire bowls / tables
Again, these should be fine providing burners are raised a minimum of 350mm from the deck and that their construction not be made solely of metal.

We would always recommend there is a gap to the underside allowing for a good airflow to prevent a build up of heat under the burners.

Please note – we are unable to provide any guarantees of compatibility and customers should always seek advice from the manufacturer of their chosen fire pit, bowl or table.

Technical Information

Options Available	Size Available	
Decking	3600 x 150 x 25mm	
Fascia Board	3600 x 150 x 10mm	
Dimensions		**Tolerance**
Weight	10.36 kg/piece	
Length	3600mm	± 3.6mm
Width	150mm	± 1.0mm
Thickness	25mm	± 1.0mm
Technical Test	**According to the norm**	**Value**
Fexural Test	ASTM D7032-08	21.7 MPa
Fexural Stiffness	ASTM D7032-08	2039 MPa
Slip Resistance	ASTM D7032-08	
	Dry Surface	Static 0.11 / Dynamic 0.04
	Wet Surface	Static 0.06 / Dynamic 0.05
Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion	ASTM D696-08	9.8 x 10-5 1/°C
Surface Hardenss	ASTM D1037-06a	9513N
Creep Recovery	ASTM D7032-08	81%
Water Absorption	ASTM D570-98	0.51%
Density	ASTM D6111-08	1.34g/cm^3
UV Resistance Test	ISO 4892-3 - 500hrs	grayscale 4/5