HOW TO BUILD A TIMBER DECK

STEP BY STEP GUIDE No. 1

MATERIALS CHECK LIST

STUMPS	90 x 90mm H4 Treated Pine or 100 x 100mm Cypress
POSTS (TO HANDRAILS)	90 x 90mm H4 Treated Pine or 100 x 100mm Cypress
BEARERS	90 x 70mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine
JOISTS	90 x 45mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine
DECKING	70 x 22mm Seasoned Treated Pine or 70 x 19mm Merbau
TRIMS	150 x 25mm Treated Pine
RAILS	90 x 35mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine
CAPPING RAILS	140 x 35mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine
HAND RAILS	90 x 35mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine
STRINGERS	240 x 45mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine or Merbau
TREADS	240 x 45mm F7 Seasoned Treated Pine or Merbau
CLEATS	70 x 35mm Seasoned Treated Pine
BALUSTERS	70 x 35mm Seasoned Treated Pine
COACH BOLTS	60 x 8mm Galvanised (For Cleats)
NAILS	– 65 x 2.80mm Galvanised
	– 70 x 3.75mm Galvanised Bullet Head
	– 100 x 3.75mm Galvanised Bullet Head

SIZES QUOTED TO BE USED AS A GUIDE ONLY

TOOLS REQUIRED

For most decking projects you will need:

- Handsaw
- Circular saw
- Power drill and bits
- Wood chisel
- Tape measure
- Carpenters Pencil
- Nail punch
- Shovel
- Crow bar
- Hammer
- Spanner
- String line
- Level
- Square
- Sandpaper
- Paintbrush

FOR SAFETY USE GOGGLES, GLOVES AND DUST MASK.

Bowens
THE **BUILDERS CHOICE**

Croydon
352 Dorset Rd
Ph 9723 0394

Epping
13 Scanlon Drive
Ph 9408 6566

Hallam
48–50 Hallam Sth Rd
Ph 9796 3088

Hastings
Graydens Rd
Ph 5979 1267

Laverton
163 Cherry Lane
Ph 9353 7700

Mt Evelyn
26 York Rd
Ph 9736 2588

North Melbourne
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Ph 9328 1041

Oakleigh South
717 Warrigal Rd
Ph 9579 1188

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1 800 333 162
OR RETURN THIS COUPON TO:
BOWENS TIMBER AND BUILDING SUPPLIES
P.O. BOX 1377, VESPER DRIVE, NARRE WARREN 3805

① NAME: .....
ADDRESS: .....
.....
POSTCODE: ..... PHONE: .....

PLEASE SEND ME THE INFORMATION I HAVE MARKED HERE

- ☐ 1 Timber Deck
- ☐ 2 Pergola
- ☐ 3 Timber Fence
- ☐ 4 Feature Wall
- ☐ 5 Carport
- ☐ 6 Gazebo
- ☐ 7 Cubby House
- ☐ 8 Work Bench
- ☐ 9 Timber Steps
- ☐ 10 Timber Shelving
- ☐ 11 Timber Gates
- ☐ 12 Handrail
- ☐ 13 Privacy Fence
- ☐ 14 Retaining Wall

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WARNING: Always check with your council authority regarding by-laws or regulations which may be applicable to this project.

HOW TO BUILD A TIMBER DECK

Bowens
THE **BUILDERS CHOICE**

1

EASY TO FOLLOW STEP BY STEP GUIDE

COMPLETE MATERIALS CHECK LIST

LIST OF ALL TOOLS REQUIRED

Established 1894
OVER A CENTURY OF HELPING VICTORIANS BUILD

REFER TO COUPON ON BACK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS AND OTHER BOWENS PROJECTS

HELPING YOU BUILD IT BETTER!

HELPING YOU BUILD IT BETTER!

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO BUILDING YOUR OWN TIMBER DECK

TIMBER DECKS

Timber decks are a great way to get the most use out of awkward or limited garden space for recreation or entertaining.

Putting up a timber deck is like adding on an outdoor room (you can even have a 'ceiling' if you add a pergola as well.

There are three basic types:

- Hillside decks… these utilise sloping land to advantage and overcome the problem and expense of levelling.
- Low-level decks (under one metre high)… these extend out from floor level of your home to give a feeling of spaciousness. These are the easiest to plan and build. Low-level decks can be free standing or attached to the house.
- Isolated decks… this type can be positioned around a swimming pool or rockery, beneath trees and shrubs, or used to beautify and ugly corner.

CHOOSING A SITE

When choosing the area, consider existing garden, trees, drains and convenience in relation to your house.

Always check with your council as to permit and site location requirements.

Make sure that drainage will stop any water from staying under the deck. With low-level decks, ensure that weeds will not grow between deck slats. Rake the ground clear and lay polyethene sheeting over the area. Then randomly pierce it with nails to assist drainage or use a weed stop film.

CHOOSING YOUR TIMBER

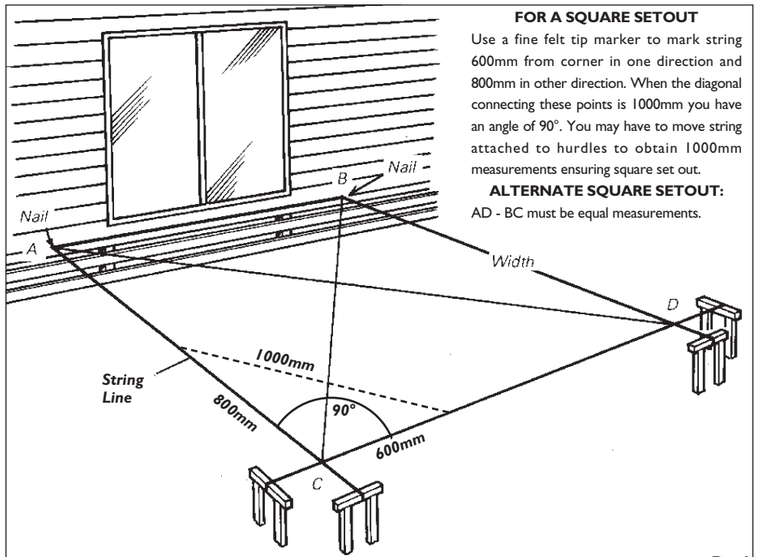
- For stumps select from either Cyprus (size 100 x 100mm) or preservative-treated H4 Radiata Pine (size 90 x 90mm). These species are recommended for setting in the ground.
- For framing (bearers and joists) we recommend F7 treated Radiata Pine.
- For decking select from either Merbau (70 x 19mm) or preservative-treated Radiata Pine (70 x 22mm) check back page for comple materials checklist.

MARKING OUT

The first step is to build hurdles from timber battens outside the planned area of your deck and in approximately the right position.

As most decks are attached to the house, the next step is to mark each corner of the deck along the wall (AB) – make certain this line is level.

Use a square to measure out the width of the deck and attrach a string line (CD) with nails at these points on the hurdles. Then place string lines AC and BD to show the length. Check that the marking out is square by measuring AD and BC – they must be equal. The nails in the tops of the hurdles may have to be moved slightly until they do.



FOR A SQUARE SETOUT

Use a fine felt tip marker to mark string 600mm from corner in one direction and 800mm in other direction. When the diagonal connecting these points is 1000mm you have an angle of 90°. You may have to move string attached to hurdles to obtain 1000mm measurements ensuring square set out.

ALTERNATE SQUARE SETOUT:

AD - BC must be equal measurements.

Fig. 1

STUMP HOLES

Dig stump holes 400 x 400mm square and 700mm deep. You will need to put a row of stumps every 1500mm out from the wall and 1200mm apart (Fig. 2).

Keep holes square and clean with rammed bottom prior to inspection. Make sure that outside edges of the stumps are flush (that simply means against or touching) with the stringline.

Stumps can be set straight into concrete. But first place a soleplate 300 x 150 x 50mm in the bottom of the hole and stand the stump on the soleplate. Next temporarily brace the stump to make sure it is straight (Fig. 3), then pour in the concrete. Bowens can supply premix concrete or use a 4.2.1 mix – 4 parts aggregate, 2 parts sand, 1 part cement. Check for level. Allow the concrete to cure for three to four days.

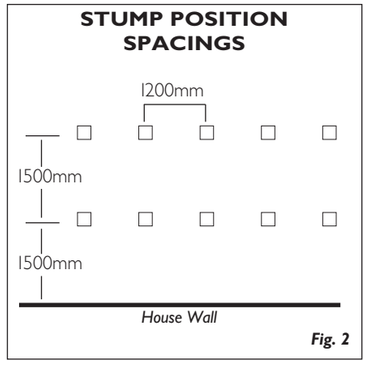


Fig. 2

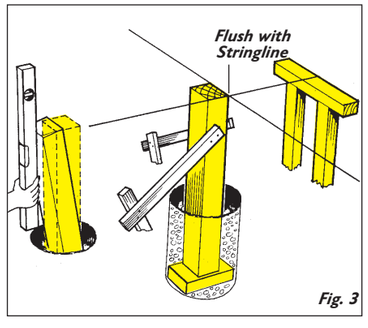


Fig. 3

BEARERS

If your home is weatherboard or clad in cement sheeting use galvanized coach screws to connect the bearer direct to the frame (floor joists or bearers) of your home (Fig. 5).

If your wall is masonry you will need to 'Dynabolt' the bearer to the wall but before you do, tack a strip of malthoid along the back of the bearer. This will help preserve the timber. Drill holes in the bearer for 'Dynabolts' before attaching it to the wall.

Holding the timber in position below the string and the thickness of the decking and joist, mark the masonry with a long pencil through the two end holes. Drill the two holes with a masonry drill bit and bolt timber to wall with two 'Dynabolts'. Drill remaining holes and fix 'Dynabolts' at (Fig. 5) approximately 600mm centres.

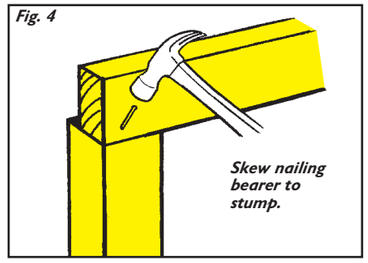


Fig. 4

Skew nail the bearer onto the stumps. Fix your joists every 450mm on top of the bearers (Fig. 4). Skew nail here also or use nail plates or framing anchors. Make sure joists are level by "Checking" onto bearer.

DECKING

Start the decking boards at the front of the deck and work towards the house or other side. Each board should be spaced apart by the diameter of a fixing nail (use a nail as a spacer guage at every nailing point) (Fig. 6). Boards are fixed to each joist with two straight driven timber deck galvanised nails, size 65 x 2..8mm.

If the decking is in varied lengths, make sure that joints are not all in line on the same joist (Fig. 6). It is important that all joints should be made squarely over a joist (Fig. 6). When fixing the ends, the nail holes should be pre-drilled to avoid splitting the end of the timber.

The simplest way to get a neat edge at the end of a deck is to fix the boards with some centimetres overhang and trim them all at once with a saw (Fig. 7).

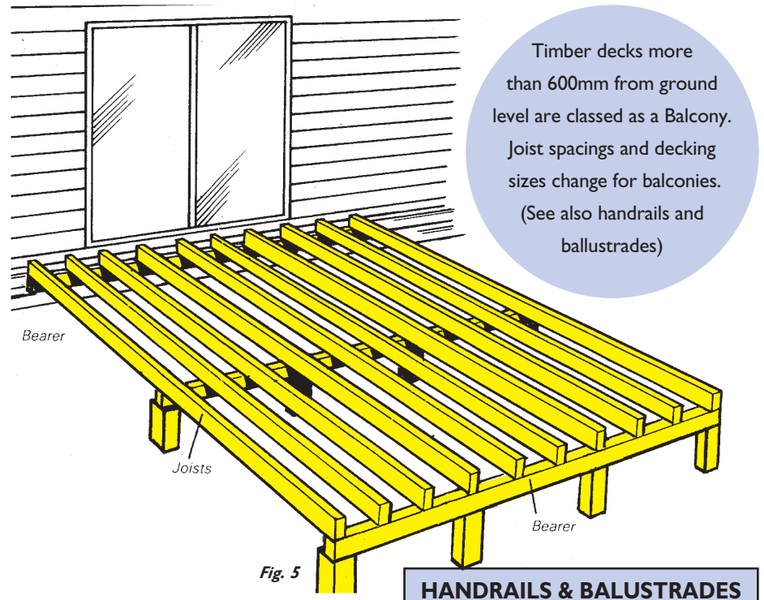


Fig. 5

Timber decks more than 600mm from ground level are classed as a Balcony. Joist spacings and decking sizes change for balconies. (See also handrails and ballustrades)

Fix base boards 150 x 25mm to timber stumps or attach to braced base board support when using concrete stumps.

FINISHING

If you use durable timbers, a surface finish is not necessary for protection. However, if you do wish to stain the timber, BOWENS stores have an excellent range of decking stains and quality timber finishes in a range of colours to suit your choice.

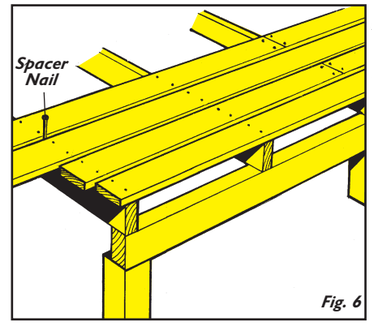


Fig. 6

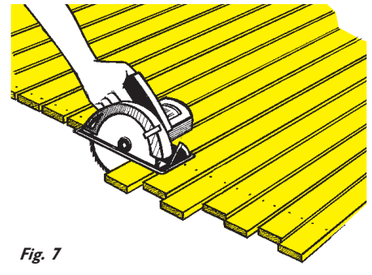


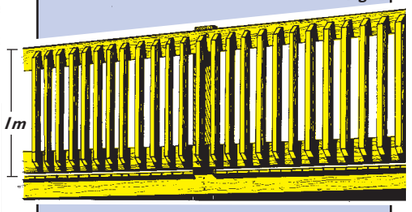
Fig. 7

HANDRAILS & BALUSTRADES

Decks 600mm and higher above ground must have a 1metre high balustrade with maximum gaps of 150mm (Fig. 8) and have different joist spacings and decking sizes.

A handrail 865mm or higher is required on one side for stairs 1 metre wide or less and on both sides for wider stairs. A flat capping rail (150 x 38mm) provides bracing and convenience. BOWENS can supply pre-cut 50 x 38mm Treated Pine balusters.

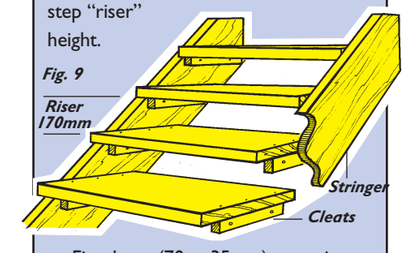
Fig. 8



STAIRS

Measure stair height to top of decking boards and allow for maximum 170mm step "riser" height.

Fig. 9



Fix cleats (70 x 35mm) to stringers (240 x 45mm) with coach screws or galvanised nails and nial treads (240 x 45mm) to cleats. Pre-drill holes to prevent splitting (Fig. 9).