

Standard Decking DIY Kit

(With Traditional Metal Handrails)



Guidance Notes

Our kits can be assembled easily using the following instructions and can be used on their own or joined together to create whichever configuration you might want.

We want you to enjoy your deck purchase for many years to come and by following a few simple steps you will be able to ensure this happens.

Please take time to read the assembly instructions carefully before erecting your decking kit and check all parts prior to assembly.

Ensure before starting construction that you have a level working area to install your frame, be this on paving slabs, gravel or well draining ground (grass/soil).

To complete your build you may also require Membrane, Fascia Boards, Corner Dolly's, Stain, Handrails and Additional Joists to strengthen which are not provided as part of a standard kit.

Please Note: Due to the nature of your kit, cutting of joists and hand/base rails to size will be require to make your frame the correct / exact size.

Maintenance

All timber decking can become slippery when wet or in situations where standing water is present. You should exercise caution when the surface is wet.

It is important that the deck surface is kept clean by regular brushing with a stiff bristle brush to remove dirt, algae and dead leaves which could make the deck slippery in the wet.

Periodic cleaning to remove moss and lichen will reduce the risk of slipping.

We recommend staining, treating or oiling your deck when complete to maximise its lifespan.

FOR ALL KITS WE RECOMMEND A MINIMUM OF TWO PEOPLE FOR SAFE ASSEMBLY

Recommended / Required Tools

Hand / Power Saw

Drill Driver

PZ2 Driver Bit

Pencil

Tape Measure

Spirit Level

Step 1 - Preparing & Trimming the Sub-Frame Joists

Before assembling your deck base, you must adjust the length of the internal joists to ensure the outer sub-frame forms a true, square footprint.

Why Trimming is Required

All joist timbers are supplied at standard lengths. When assembling a flush outer frame, the internal joists sit directly between the two outer rim joists (the front/back or top/bottom frame pieces).

To account for the combined thickness of these two outer timbers ($2 \times 38\text{mm}$ timber = 76mm total width), all intermediate joists must be shortened.

Identify Your Timbers:

Select 2 full-length joists to serve as your outer rim timbers. Set these aside without cutting. Gather the remaining internal joists that will sit inside the frame.

Measure and Mark:

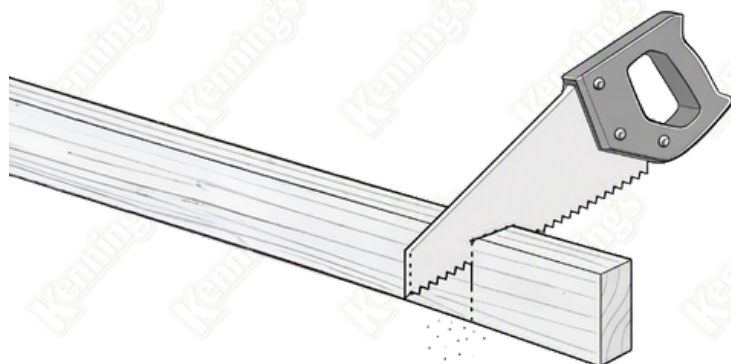
Measure 76mm from one end of each internal joist. Use a try square or speed square to draw a straight, perpendicular cut line across the face of the timber.

Cut to Size:

Trim each intermediate joist along the marked line using a hand saw, circular saw, or mitre saw.

Pro Tip

Apply an end-grain preservative treatment to all freshly cut ends to protect against moisture ingress and prevent rot before fixing.



Step 2: Assembling the Frame & Squaring Up

Once the internal joists are cut to size, assemble the outer sub-frame, install the intermediate joists at equal centres (600mm), and square the structure before securing.

Lay Out the Outer Box

Place the 2 full-length outer timbers parallel to each other on a flat, level surface.

Position 2 of your trimmed joists at either end, sitting flush between the outer timbers to create a rectangular box, ensure all timber edges and corners are flush with one another.

Fix the Outer Frame

Pre-drill pilot holes through the exterior faces of the full-length timbers into the ends of the trimmed side joists (this prevents splitting near the edges). Secure the corners using 2 × 100mm wood screws per joint.

Check for Square (The Diagonal Method)

Before fixing the internal joists, you must ensure the frame is perfectly square:

Measure diagonally from Corner A to Corner D, and then from Corner B to Corner C, if both diagonal measurements are identical, your frame is square. If one measurement is longer, gently push or tap the longer corners inward until both diagonal dimensions match exactly.

Position and Secure Intermediate Joists

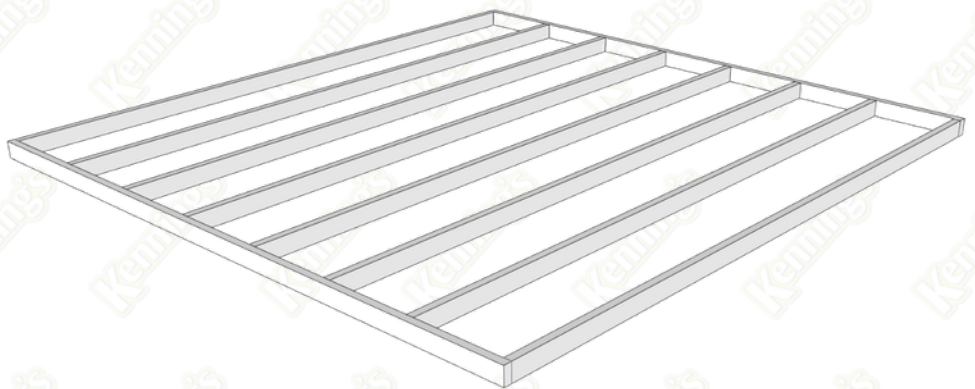
Mark your joist centres along both inside faces of the full-length timbers (spaced evenly at 600mm centres). Slide the remaining trimmed joists into position, aligning them on your marks.

Fix each intermediate joist from the outside through the outer rim timbers using 2 × 100mm screws on each end. Double-check joist tops remain flush with the outer frame edges to ensure a flat base for the deck boards.

TOP DOWN VIEW



FRAME LAYOUT EXAMPLE



Step 3: Installing Support Posts

With the sub-frame constructed and squared, the next stage is securing the newel posts in position and fixing the decking surface.

Position & Fix the Newel Posts

The balustrade posts must be securely bolted to the inside of the outer sub-frame before the perimeter deck boards are fixed down.

Locate Post Positions

Place the posts in the inside corners and perimeter locations corresponding to your kit's balustrade layout.

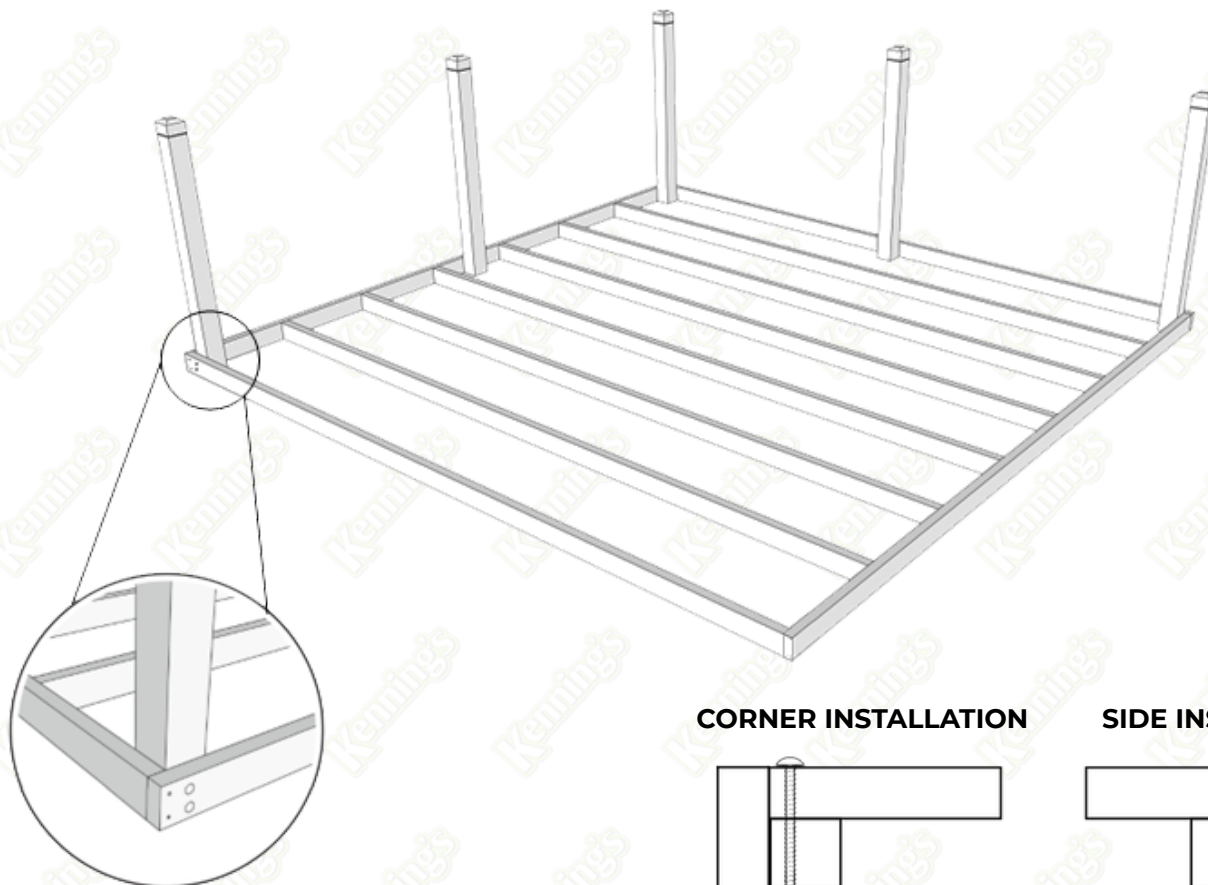
Level & Plumb

Use a spirit level on two adjacent sides of each post to make sure it stands perfectly upright.

Fix Securely

Drill two holes through the frame and post for the carriage bolts to be inserted. Fix each post using 2 × bolts per frame face to eliminate wobble.

Depending on your kit size, you may also need to install a middle newel post, simply measure to the middle of your frame and secure it in the same way, see below diagrams for reference.



CORNER INSTALLATION

SIDE INSTALLATION

Step 4: Laying the Deck Boards

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DECK BOARDS MUST RUN PERPENDICULAR (AT 90 DEGREES) TO YOUR JOISTS.

First Board Placement

Start at the outer edge of the frame. Align the first board flush with the exterior frame edge. Notch the board neatly around any corner newel posts using a jigsaw if the board sits flush around the post.

Fixing Down

Pre-drill pilot holes at each joist crossing (especially within 50mm of board ends to avoid splitting). Secure the board into every joist using 2 × 60mm green decking screws. Drive screws slightly flush with the surface without over-sinking.

Notching Subsequent Boards

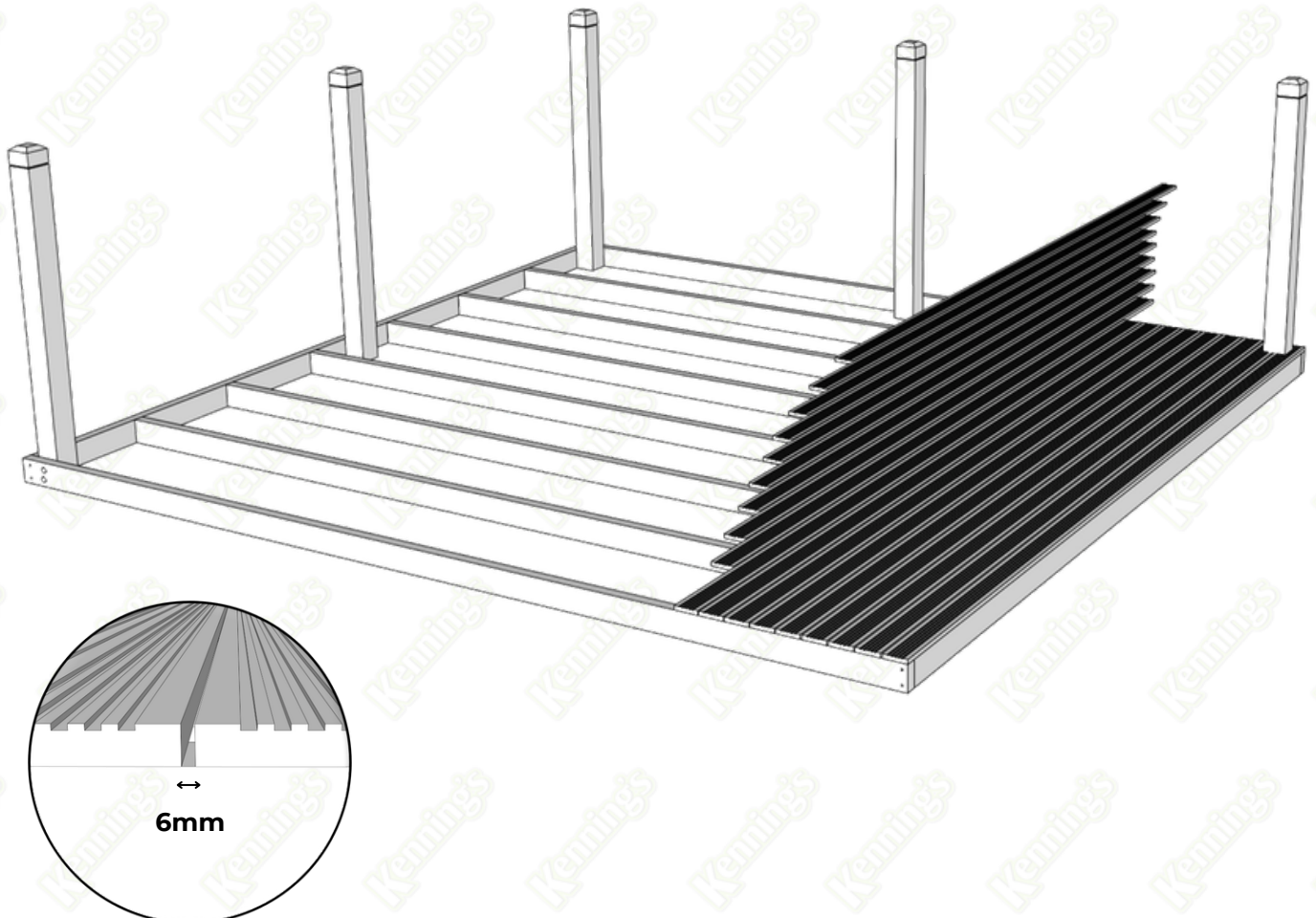
Cut neat notches around the remaining newel posts as you reach them across the frame layout.

Spacing Gaps

Maintain a 6mm gap between each board.

Pro Tip

Use a spacer (such as a timber offcut, plastic spacer, or standard screw shank) to keep the spacing uniform across the entire deck.



Step 5: Handrail & Spindle Assembly

In this step, you will create the two handrail sections that will form the boundary of the decking kit, building these sections is the same for all sides.

IMPORTANT: Pre-Assembly Cutting Guide

The handrails and baserails in your kit are supplied in standard master lengths (1800mm or 2400mm depending on your kit size) and must be trimmed to fit your specific deck kit before assembly.

To account for the width of the newel posts, the overall clear distance between your posts is as below:

Kit Size	Rail Quantity	Rail Length Required	Cut From Each End	Spindles Per Section
1800mm x 1800mm	4	1536mm	132mm	13
2400mm x 2400mm	4	2136mm	132mm	18
3000mm x 3000mm	8	1325.5mm	237.25mm	11
3600mm x 3600mm	8	1625.5mm	87.25mm	13
4200mm x 4200mm	8	1925.5mm	237.25mm	16
4800mm x 4800mm	8	2225.5mm	87.25	18

Please Note: All measurements are to be considered for reference only. Always check each opening individually, as small variances in post plumb can affect rail length.

The Action

Measure and trim the required amount from all of your Hand/Baserails before attaching the mounting brackets.

Example: 1800mm x 1800mm Kits includes 1800mm rails, so you need to cut 264mm off (132mm each end) the Hand/Baserails to leave you with 1536mm, **cuts must be made on both ends to keep the spacing even.**

Phase 1: Bracket Preparation

Attach Brackets

Secure the Handrail Brackets to both ends of all four Hand/Baserails.

Alignment

Drive the provided Bracket Screws through the centre-back holes of each bracket and directly into the end of the timber.

Important: Ensure the curved top of the bracket is aligned so it faces the same direction as the pre-drilled holes on the rail face.



Step 5: Handrail & Spindle Assembly Continued

Phase 2: Building the Rail Section

Install the Baserail

Position one prepared rail, acting as the baserail, horizontally between two of the newel posts. Adjust the rail so it is perfectly level and sits at your desired height from the ground.

Secure to Posts

Drive the remaining Bracket Screws through the outer holes of the brackets and directly into the posts to lock the baserail in place.

Insert Spindles

Slot the spindles vertically into the pre-drilled holes of the secured baserail.

Cap with Handrail

Place a second Handrail on top of the vertical spindles, carefully aligning the pre-drilled holes with the tops of the spindles to lock the "ladder" section together. Secure the top brackets to the posts using the supplied screws.

Repeat

Follow the exact same process for all sections.

