

MITREPLAN

Build a deck



PROJECT PLANNER

An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a 10/10 result.

Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.

Including materials checklist.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is well worth your time to read through all steps first to be sure you understand what is required.

Mitre 10 is proudly Australian owned.

No. 2

www.mitre10.com.au

MITRE 10 *All the help you need*

Building a 10/10 deck is easy – with a little help from Mitre 10.

A well-designed deck is a relatively easy way to increase family living space around your home. It's like adding on an outdoor room that can be a perfect link for relaxed indoor/outdoor living. And it will also add value to your home. If you wish, you can even cover your deck by adding a pergola as you build it.

While design is largely a matter of personal taste, the deck you choose will depend on such factors as the shape of your land and its relationship to your home. Decks can be broadly classified into three main types:

Hillside decks, which take advantage of uneven or sloping blocks.

Low-level decks, that extend out at floor level on flat land, adding spaciousness to a family room or living area.

Isolated decks, that are used around swimming pools and other garden features such as gazebos, ponds and rockeries.

You will also have to decide which way you want your decking boards to run. The design we've shown you here has the boards running parallel to the house, but, if you prefer, you can easily adapt it for them to run diagonally, or away from the house.

Whichever type of deck you choose, building it is well within the capacity the average home improver. And you'll get real enjoyment out of doing it yourself with the help of this step-by-step guide – and your local Mitre 10 specialist.

Before starting any work, find out if a building permit is required.

Step 1: Choosing and preparing your site

When choosing the site for your deck, note the position of the existing features of both your house and garden. Pay special attention to the location of drains and any external plumbing, because once your deck has been built, it will be hard to access the area under it.

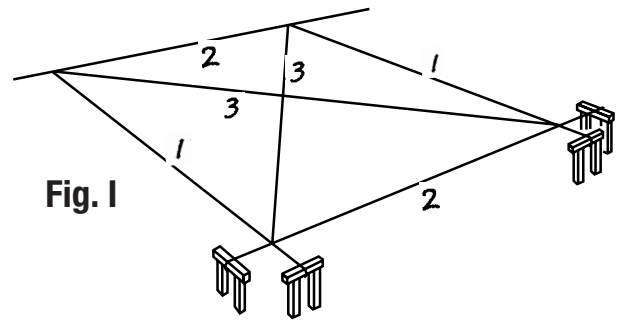
Take ground preparation and drainage into account by laying some Agi Pipe or Nylex Strip Drain before you start building to avoid any surface water lying about underneath. Just follow the maker's instructions. Then rake the ground clear. It might be a good idea to add Weed Control Mat at this stage, too.

Step 2: Mark out your site

Accuracy at this stage can save a lot of hassles later on so take your time and don't rush.

Mark out the width and length of the deck where it will join the house.

Then, using any scrap timber, build corner hurdles and drive them into the ground, outside the designated area, two at each corner (Fig. 1). Fix nails in the hurdle top pieces and stretch a string line around them to form a box in the plan's dimensions (Fig. 1). Lines 1 and 1 should be parallel and the distance between them equal, as should lines 2 and 2. Measure between the diagonally opposite corners with a tape measure to ensure that lines 3 and 3 are the same length. You may have to adjust the position of the nails to achieve this. Once the diagonal measurements are equal and all lines are parallel, the job will be square and you are ready to set the stumps.



Step 3: Set the stumps

Space your stump holes every 1800mm out from the house and 1500mm apart (Fig. 2). Dig the holes 300 x 300mm square and 600mm deep. Dig them so that when the stumps are centred in them, the outside edges of the stumps are flush with the string line.

Before setting the stumps in the holes, place a timber sole plate in the bottom of each hole. Stand the stump on the sole plate (Fig. 3). You may need to brace the stump temporarily so it stays upright and straight (Fig. 4).

Fill the hole completely with a 50/50 mixture of soil and dry cement. Check the stump with your spirit level and adjust the braces if necessary to hold it square in place, then firm the mixture by tamping down hard. Use your stringline to make sure all stumps are in line with each other and check for plumbness with your level. Add water to set the cement in the soil mixture. Finally, fit ant caps to the top of the stumps.

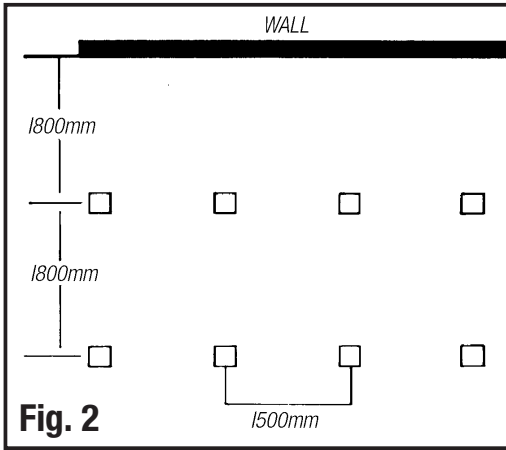


Fig. 2

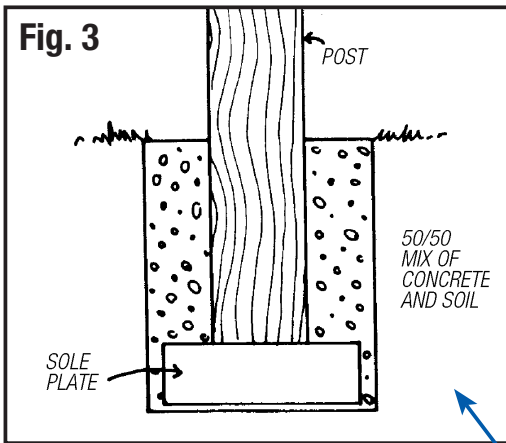


Fig. 3

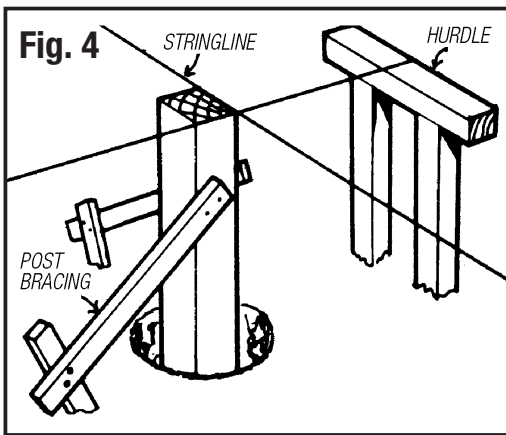


Fig. 4

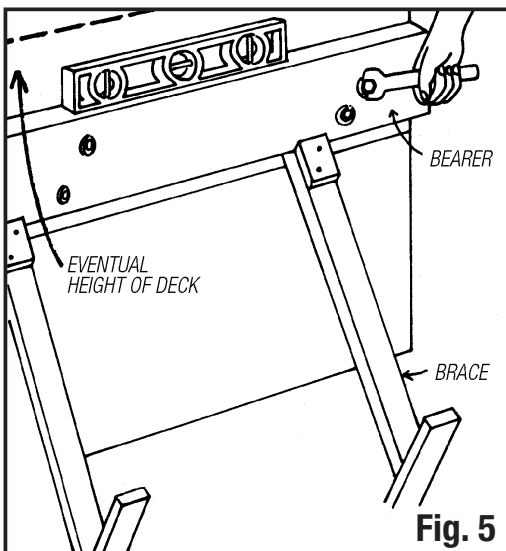


Fig. 5

Step 4: Add the framing

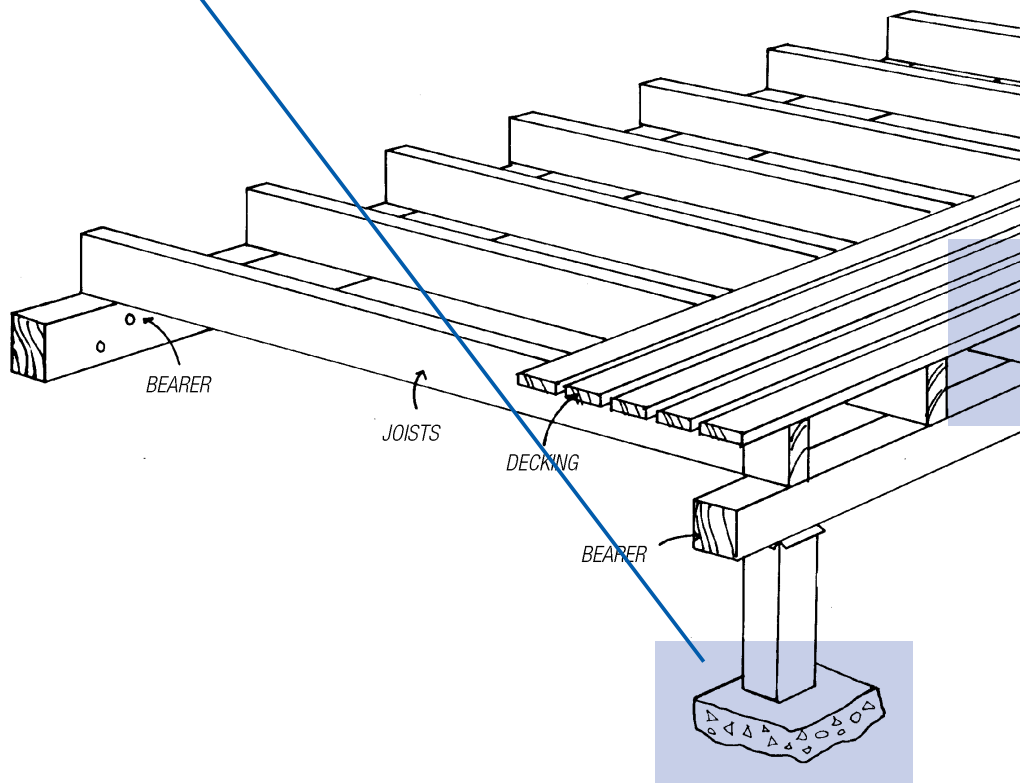
If your house is weatherboard, ideally bearers should be joined to the existing bearers of your house. If your house is brick then you can connect a 150 x 150mm bearer to the brick with suitable masonry bolts at 600mm intervals.

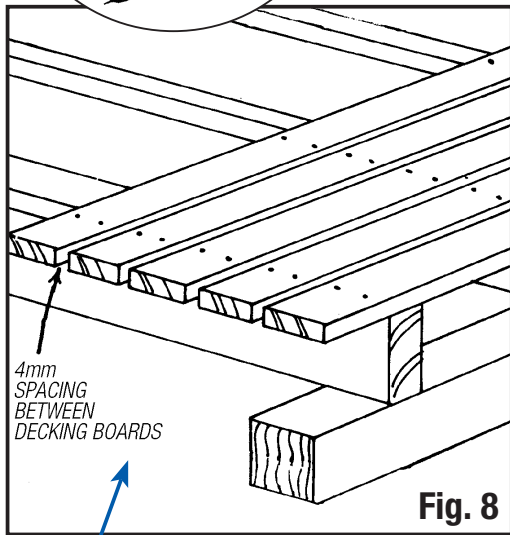
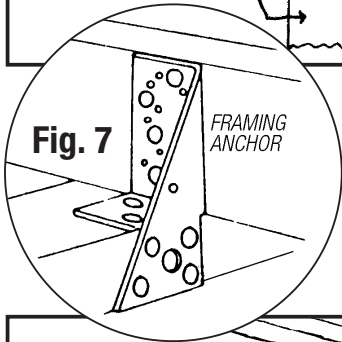
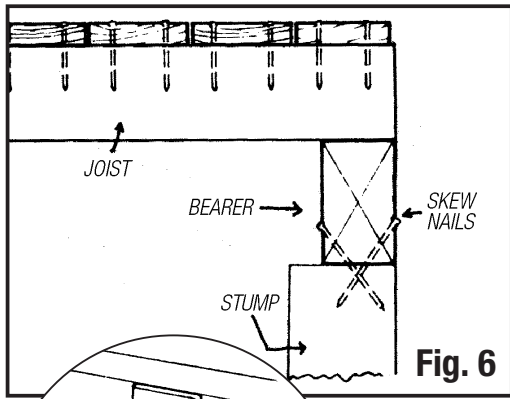
Drill holes in the bearer before attaching it to the wall. Hold the bearer in position below the string line allowing for the combined thickness of the decking and joist (Fig.5) and drill and fix the bearer into position with masonry anchors of correct size to suit thickness of the timber bearer. The anchors should be in 600mm spacings.

Skew nail (driving nails in at an angle – Fig. 6) remaining bearers onto stumps. Or use nail plates or framing anchors (Fig. 7). Check all levels and angles once again. Set joists on top of bearers every 450 – 600mm for hardwood decking, every 400mm for pine decking using the skew nail technique or galvanised framing anchors.

Step 5: Lay your decking surface

The decking surface will be the most visible part of your work, so take your time and check your progress as you go. Each decking board should be square to the others and, together, be square to the house. While decking boards are dressed, the odd one or two may be bowed and care should be taken that the bow is eased out as you nail them in place. Nail the boards to the joists using two galvanised decking nails at each point, placed approximately 15mm in from the edge of the board. Leave a gap of about 4mm (Fig. 8) between each board to allow for drainage. You can use a piece of suitably sized timber as a spacer, placing it into position against the previous board at





each nail point and pulling the board against it as you nail. Drill each board end before nailing to avoid splitting. Make sure that joins in the boards are staggered and always occur over a joist.

To get straight, even edge to the finished deck, let the ends overhang about 50mm, then trim them all together with a saw when you've completed laying all boards.

Step 6: Finishing your new deck

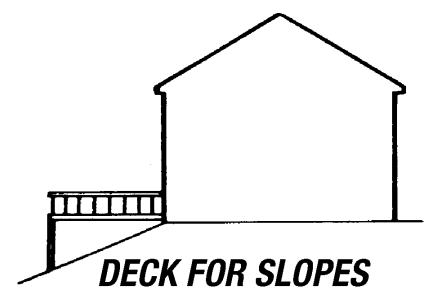
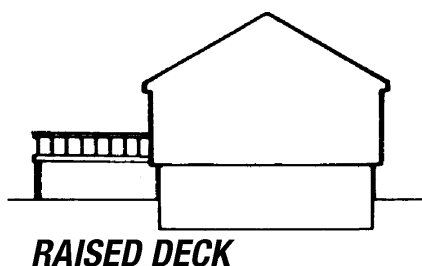
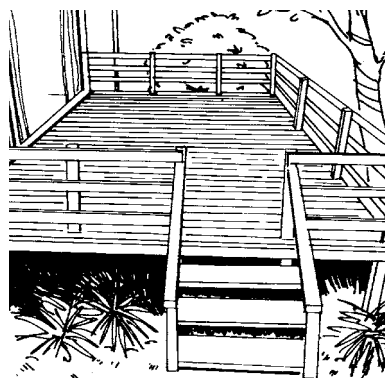
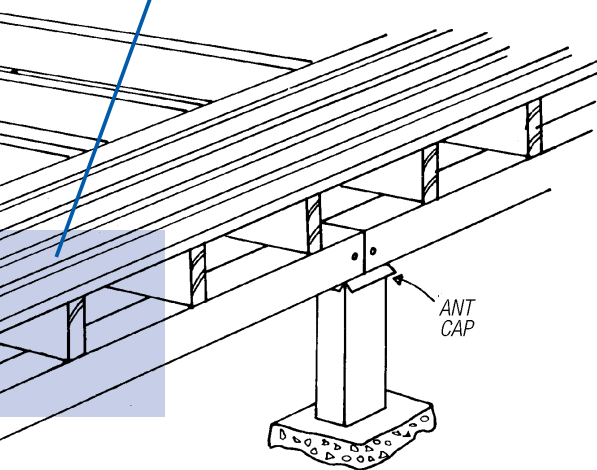
If you have chosen a hard durable decking surface such as Batu or Merbau, a decking finish is optional. Treated radiata pine decking already comes in a natural green colour and doesn't normally require any added protection unless facing north or west. But remember, most timbers left to age naturally will turn to a silver grey colour over a year or so from completion. So consider painting or staining carefully.

If you require something that will enhance and maintain the beauty of the timber you've chosen, then there are a number of attractive finishes you can use from Cabots and Watty. Ask the paint staff at your local Mitre 10 store.

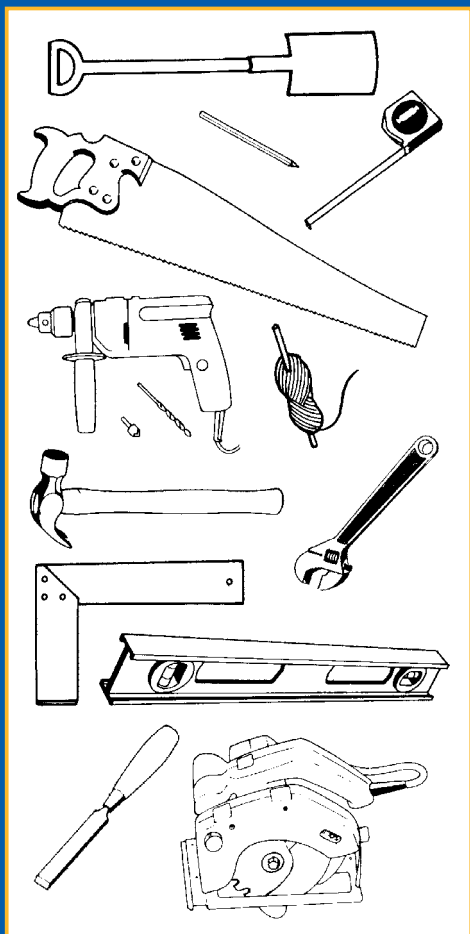
Now, all that's left to do is sit back and enjoy your new deck – and admire your own handiwork.

Deck Designs

Building a timber deck in our own backyard is really a breeze. All decks are made in much the same way, so it's easy to adapt the basic techniques to your own site and your own lifestyle. Here's just a few examples to get you thinking – and designing your own.



Tools for the job



- Measuring Tape
- Pencil
- Power Drill & Bits
- Power Saw or Hand Saw
- Claw Hammer
- Carpenter's Square
- String Line
- Spirit Level
- 20mm Wood Chisel
- Sliding Bevel
- Adjustable Wrench
- Shovel or Post Hole Digger

All the help you need

✓ Your Materials Checklist

Timber

Your Mitre 10 specialist will be pleased to help you with the correct timber selection but if you stick to this guide you won't go wrong.

PRICE

Stumps:	Red Gum, Jarrah, Cypress Pine or Treated Pine 100 x 100mm	
Sole Plates:	Red Gum or Jarrah 250 x 250 x 50mm	
Bearers:	Unseasoned Hardwood 100 x 75mm or Treated Radiata Pine 100mm x 100mm	
Joists:	Unseasoned Hardwood or Treated Radiata Pine 100 x 50mm	
Decking:	Merbau, Batu, Jarrah, 70 x 19mm or Treated Radiata Pine 70 x 22mm	
Fixings		
Nails:	50 x 2.80mm TitaDeck [®] galvanised decking nails	
	75 x 3.75 galvanised bullet head	
	100 x 3.75mm galvanised bullet head	
	Masonry Anchors (Dynabolts)	
	Cement Mix	
	Sole Plates: 250 x 200 x 50 Red Gum	
	Ant Caps	
	Decking stain if required	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.



Visit www.mitre10.com.au for more **MITREPLANS**

IO/IO handy hints to make the job easier.

- Building a deck will be easier if you prepare all the tools and materials first.
- Be sure to take drainage of the site into consideration before you build. Once your deck is up, access will be limited.
- Lay Weed Control Mast over the area to prevent weed growth underneath.
- Measuring is easy, materials expensive. Double check all measurements and markings before you cut any piece of material.
- To get a straight, even edge to your finished decking, let the ends overhang about 50mm, then trim them all together with a saw when the job is completed.
- Remember, when using any power tool, your eyes should always be protected by wearing suitable goggles.
- **Depending on the size and construction of your deck you may need the approval of your local Shire or Council before you start.**

MITREPLAN



Build a deck

IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any claim, cost, expense, loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of or arising out of or in any way connected with using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.



Your local MITRE 10 Store is:

MITRE 10

All the help you need