

# FIN'S FACTS ABOUT DECKING

## Decking



**Verandahs and decks are perfect for our Queensland climate, providing 'bridges' between indoors and outdoors - and wider lifestyle choices. It's important to remember however, that decking is often at the mercy of the elements - and needs to be done right. Here's our resident expert Fin's advice on how to construct (and/or lay) decking:**

The first things to check when renovating a deck are the basic structural components such as the posts, bearers and joists on your verandah. If these need replacing, Fin recommends using a durable species such as Iron Bark or Spotted Gum for these applications.

These items will be supplied GOS (Green Off Saw) because it's not really necessary to go to the added expense of kiln drying. Make Finlayson's aware that you are ordering your timber for the one structure, so that they can ensure it's all of the same species. If your materials are of a variety of species they will acclimatise at varying rates which may cause an uneven deck at the end of the day.

If your verandah is fully exposed to the elements, Fin suggests Iron Bark, Spotted Gum or Merbau. All of these species are extremely durable and will provide many years of service if well maintained. If it is well protected you may choose deckings such as Treated Pine or Blackbutt.

When laying your deck, it is important to space boards with an appropriate gap. Fin recommends somewhere between 3mm and 5mm, depending once again on the position of your verandah. The greater exposure to the elements, the greater the gap to speed up the drying process after the rain. When laying your boards, use the correct nail size.

Fin suggests a 50 x 2.8 Gal Bullet Head that is not punched but just hand nailed flush with the deck. Fin also suggests that when nailing, stagger the nails for two reasons.

Firstly, appearance-wise, it looks smarter and secondly, the joists that you are nailing into will be less likely to split, reducing the chance of water penetration.

Finally, Fin's last bit of advice - make the effort to prime the tops of the joists with an oil-based primer prior to laying your deck. This will reduce the moisture uptake and lengthen the life of your verandah.

**Whether you're renovating an older home, or building a new one in the traditional style - there are many advantages in belonging to Finlayson's Renovator's Club. As a member, you'll receive special deals on our products and services, as well as access to helpful workshops and seminars.**