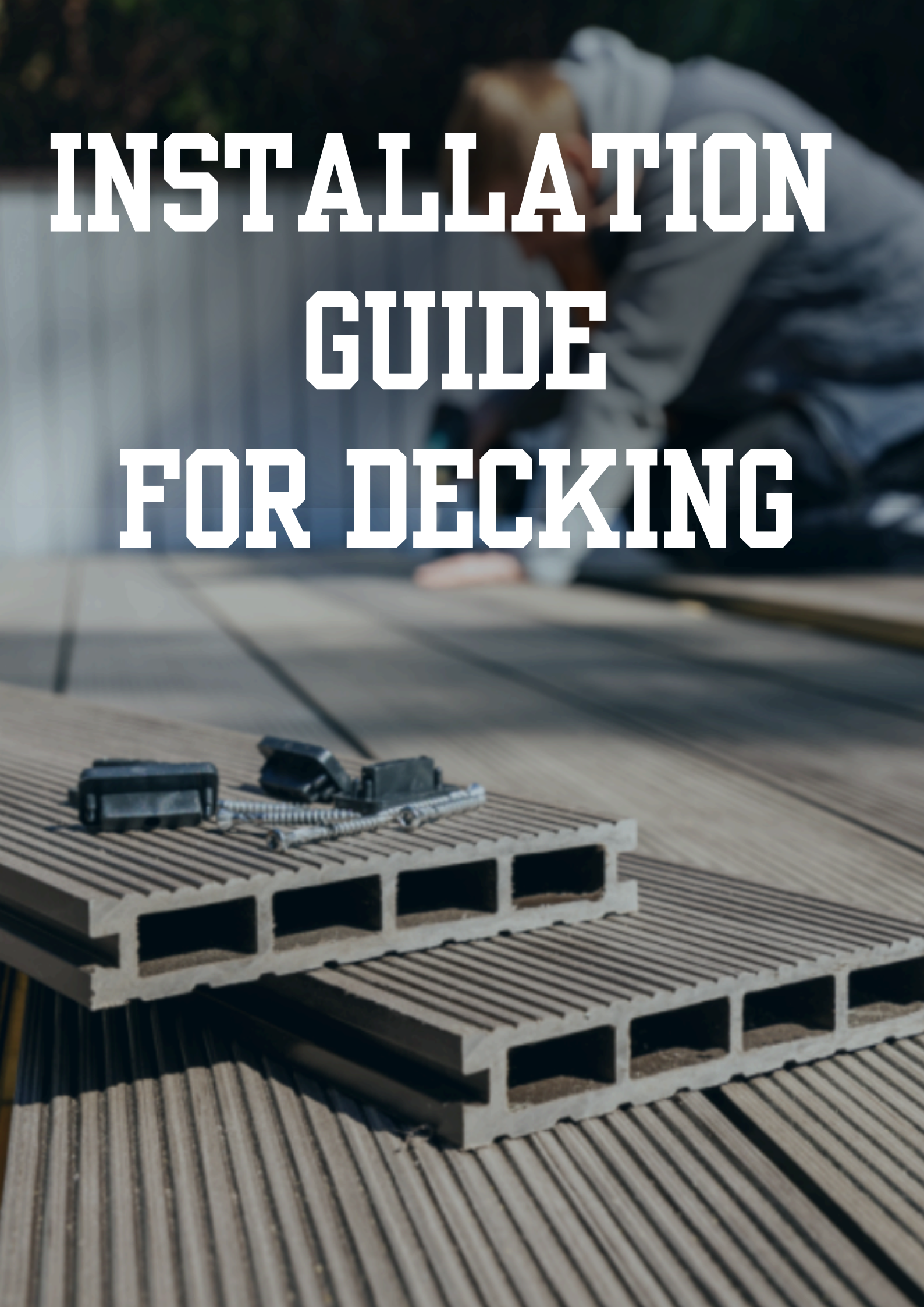
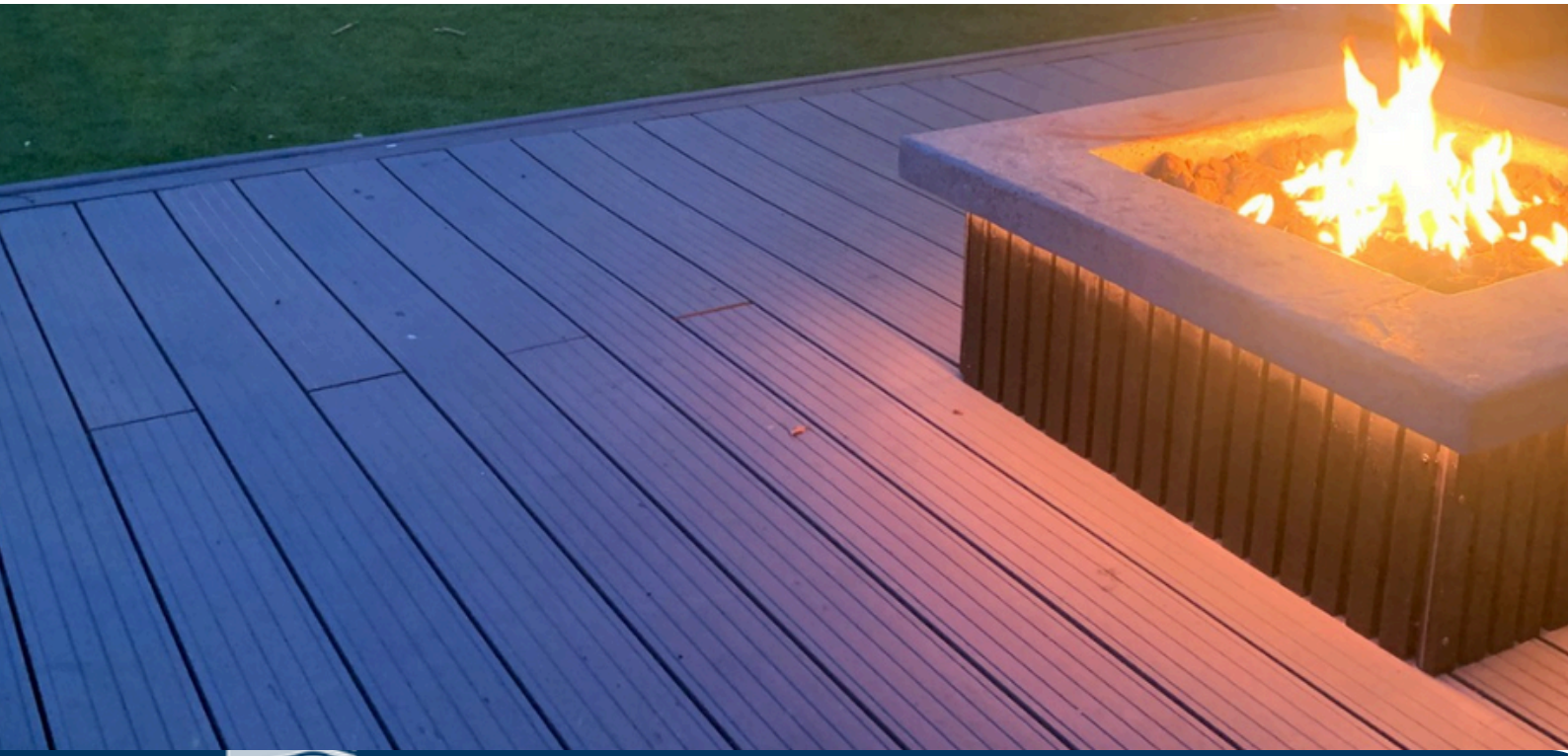


INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR DECKING

CONTENTS

BEFORE YOU INSTALL

INSTALLATION



STORAGE & HANDLING

Although composite boards are highly durable, please follow these important guidelines for storing, handling, and working with composite products to preserve their original appearance

HANDLING & STORAGE

- To unload composite safely, ensure there are at least 2 people present and handle them carefully to avoid injuries
- When transporting boards by hand, carry the slats on a tilt for better support
- Do not slide or drag boards across each other to prevent damage to the texture
- Store boards flat, level and off the ground at all times. Use support battens under them at 400mm intervals to prevent sagging
- Cover the composite with a tarpaulin or similar covering to keep them clean from debris until installation

MAINTENANCE & CARE - Routine Cleaning

Composite products require minimal maintenance, but a bit of cleaning can prolong the beauty of your outdoor area. Please note that while our products are relatively colour-stable, there might be some initial fading during the first 8-10 weeks after installation.

We recommend a routine clean of your decking every 3 months to clear away dirt and debris that can accumulate over the course of time

For a general clean, use warm soapy water and a soft bristled brush

For a deeper clean, you can opt for jet wash with no greater than 1500 PSI. Using the fan attachment, ensure that this is not applied any closer than 6 inches away from the surface.

Regardless of the cleaning option you choose, be sure to clean along the length of the boards to avoid accumulation of material that can interfere with drainage. Following these tips will help ensure you preserve the long-term finish of the board

North Valley Composites advises against using strong cleaning solutions or excessive washing of your composite decking.

MAINTENANCE & CARE - Stubborn Stains / Mildrew

Many stains can be cleaned with soap or household de-greasing agent and warm water. Scrub and soak the affected area as soon as the stain occurs to ensure best result. Rinse off with warm water.

For tougher stains, we recommend using a composite-specific cleaner for more effective removal. In the case of deeply set stains, you may use coarse sandpaper (60-80 grit) and lightly sand in the direction of the grain. However, be cautious, as sanding may reduce the enhanced woodgrain effect.

While our boards are resistant to mould and mildew damage, these can develop on almost any outdoor surface, including decking. Regular maintenance, as outlined in our Routine Cleaning section, will help prevent excessive buildup and keep your deck looking its best.

Water Staining

Although our products are carefully manufactured, residual oils may still be present in our woodgrain and grooved ranges. These oils can sometimes bleach out, appearing as white streaks on the surface of the boards.

These water stains will naturally fade over approximately 6-8 weeks with exposure to rain.

To accelerate the process, you can thoroughly clean the affected boards with warm, soapy water. Alternatively, using a jet wash on the affected area can help remove surface residue more effectively

Clearing Ice & Snow

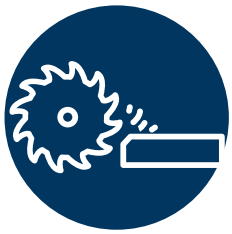
To keep your deck safe in winter, clear snow and ice using a plastic shovel to avoid scratches. Use a salt-free, non-corrosive ice melt to prevent residue buildup. If using rock salt, remove it promptly to prevent surface damage.

TOOLS YOU MAY NEED

Protective Equipment
Wear long sleeves and gloves when handling. Use a dust mask, ear defenders, and safety glasses when cutting.

Tool Set
You'll need standard carpentry tools like a tape measure, pencil and string.

Power Drill or Driver using a low Torque Setting.
A power mitre saw can be used to create bevelled edges and increase the uniformity of cuts



Circular Saw
We recommend a 40 tooth blade to achieve the cleanest cuts

Spirit Level

BEFORE YOU INSTALL - Things to consider

Pre-Planning:
Carefully consider the size, shape, and orientation of your deck during the initial planning phase of your project.

The board laying pattern will determine joist placement and spacing. Pay close attention to boundaries and doors that open onto the deck, as they may impose certain restrictions.

Temperature Considerations:
Composite decking expands and contracts with temperature changes. The T-clip and screw system allows for necessary expansion gaps. These gaps must also be maintained at end-to-end joins and where the decking meets an external boundary (e.g., a wall). Refer to the installation temperature table for guidance.

Subframe:
A suitable subframe is essential for proper deck installation. All decking boards must be secured to a timber, metal, or composite framework. Ensure a minimum of 400mm clearance beneath the subframe to allow for adequate airflow.

Colour Changes:
During the first three months after installation, the decking will undergo an initial "fade back" due to tannins in the wood reacting to weather conditions. After this period, any further colour changes will be minimal. A slight colour variation may also exist between the boards and edging/corner trims, particularly when installing the boards with the woodgrain side up. This difference will become less noticeable after the initial fade back.

Outside Temperature	End to End Gap
Below 4 C	9mm
Between 4C - 24C	6mm
25 C or above	3mm

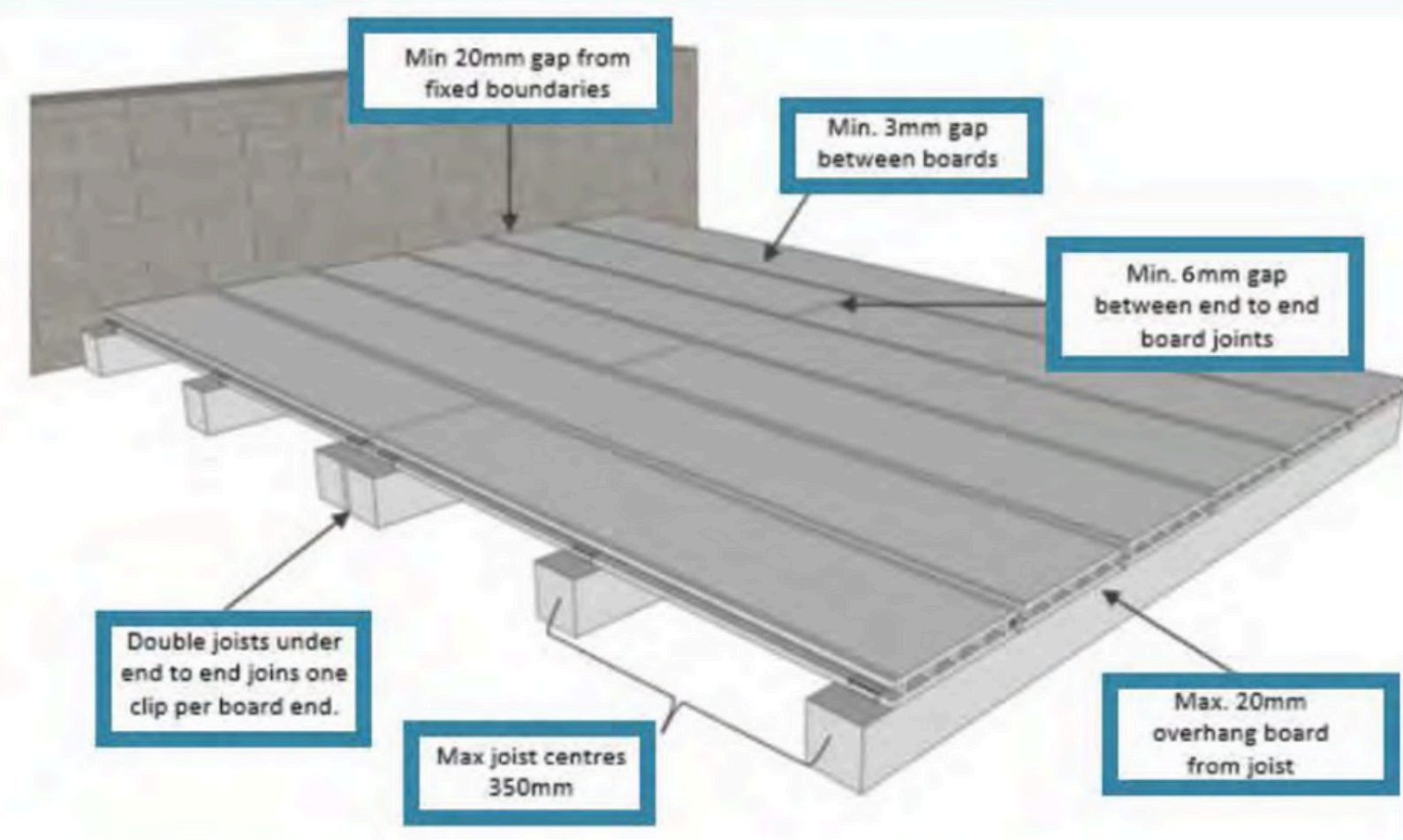
INSTALLATION - Spacing the boards & subframe

Our composite decking boards should have a minimum gap of 3mm between them, with a recommended spacing of 6mm to 10mm, as determined by the T-clip and screw system.

End-to-end butt joints must have a minimum gap of 6mm, though this may vary depending on temperature. Refer to the table on the previous page for specific guidance.

Joist centre supports should not exceed 350mm apart. All end-to-end joints must be supported by two centre joists—one for each board—and should be clipped at the ends.

To ensure proper drainage, a gradient of 0.5% per meter should be applied to allow effective water runoff.



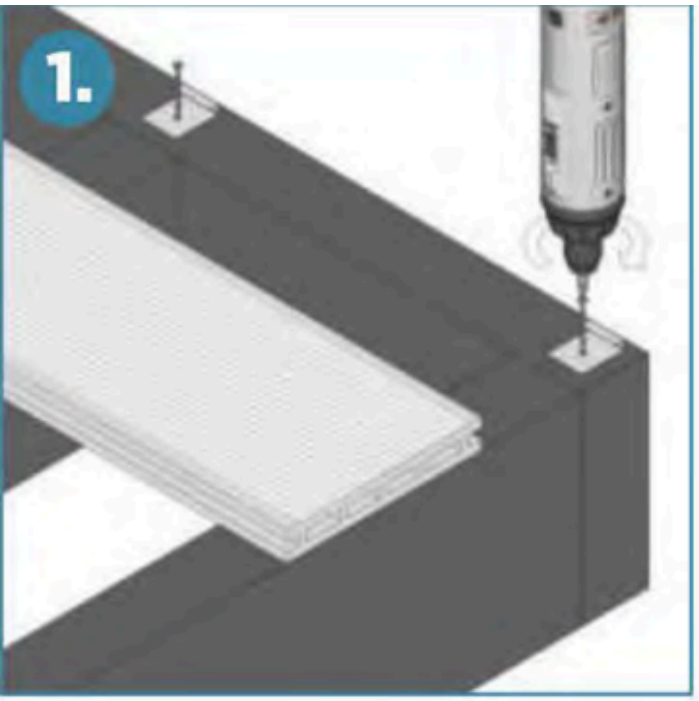
INSTALLATION - Making a Start

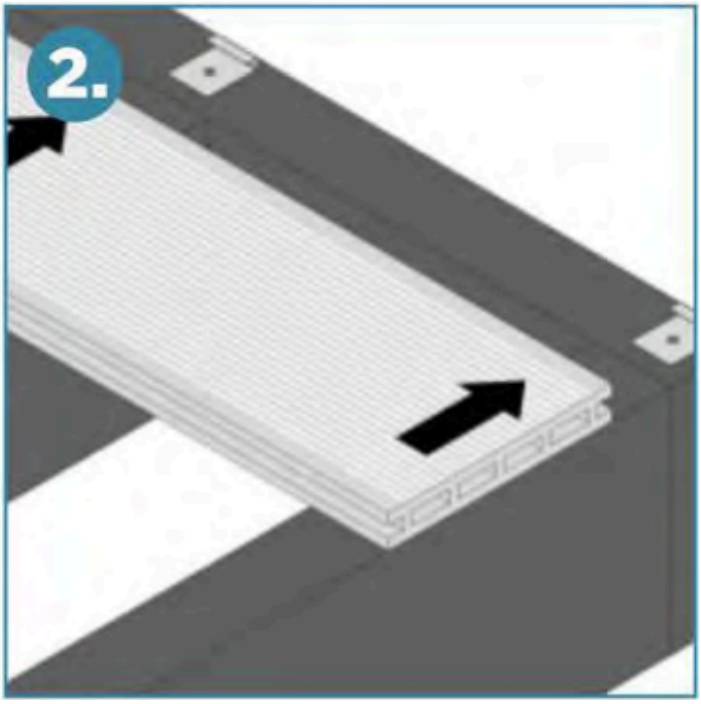
Once your subframe is securely laid and levelled, you can begin installing the decking boards.

Start at the outer edge of the deck by attaching starter clips to the framework using the provided steel screws (Fig. 1).

For easier screw insertion, countersinking is recommended.

Place starter clips every 350mm along the joist length to ensure a secure hold. Then, clip the first board into the starter clips (Fig. 2).

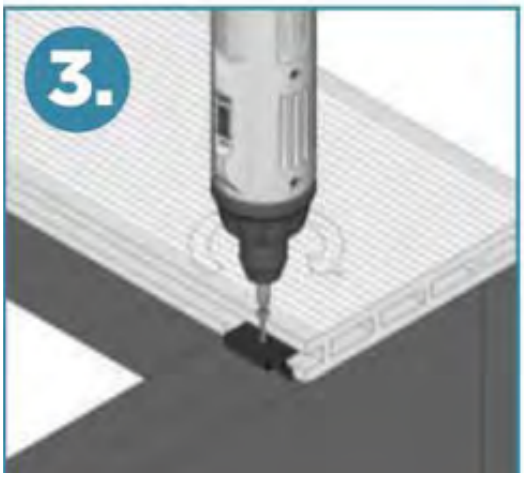


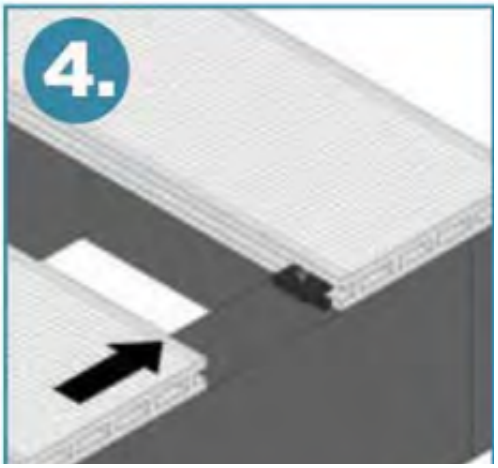


INSTALLATION - Screwing down the Decking

When using the T-clips and screws, lightly fasten them in place without fully tightening (Fig. 3).

Next, position the next board onto your framework, aligning it against the clips and screws (Fig. 4). You may need to slightly lift the board's edge to slide it into the clips. Ensure the board is in full contact with the clips along its entire length.

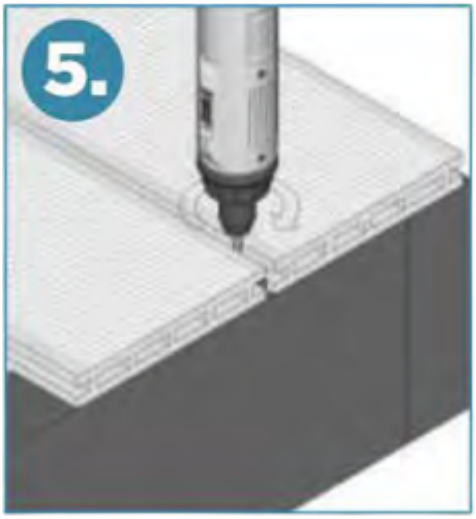




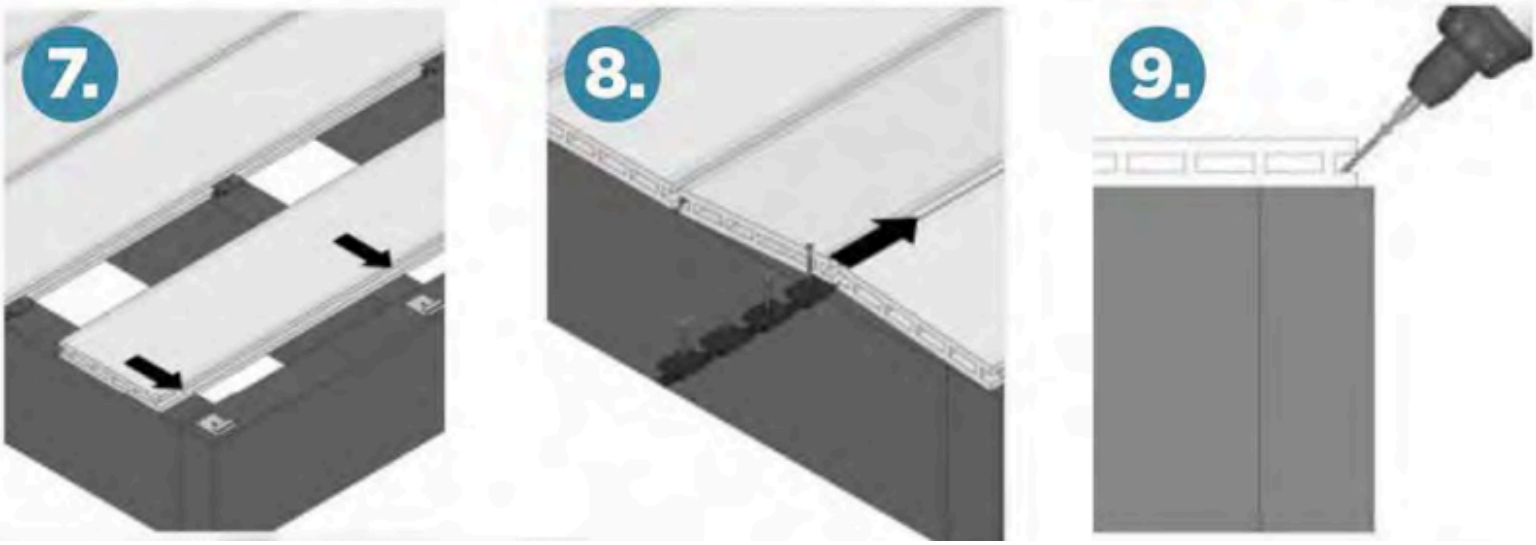
Place clips every 350mm along the joists.

Once the boards are in position, fully tighten the T-clips and screws between the installed boards (Fig. 5).

Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 until you reach the final two boards (Fig. 6).



INSTALLATION -The Last Board



Measure the width of the last two boards, including a 6mm spacing gap between them. Mark this measurement on your final joists, then install the steel finishing clips at the marked positions. Clip the last decking board into place (Fig. 7).

Once the final board is secured, insert the second-to-last board, ensuring there is at least a 6mm gap between them. Slide the required number of T-clips into place (Fig. 8) and screw them into the joists.

If this installation method is not possible, you can secure the last board by angling screws through the bottom of the board at every 350mm after all other boards are in place (Fig. 9).

Do not over screw into the deck boards as to avoid the material splitting

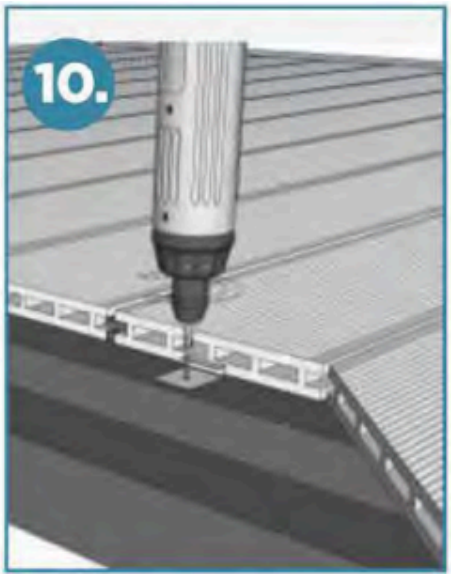
INSTALLATION - Picture Frame Border

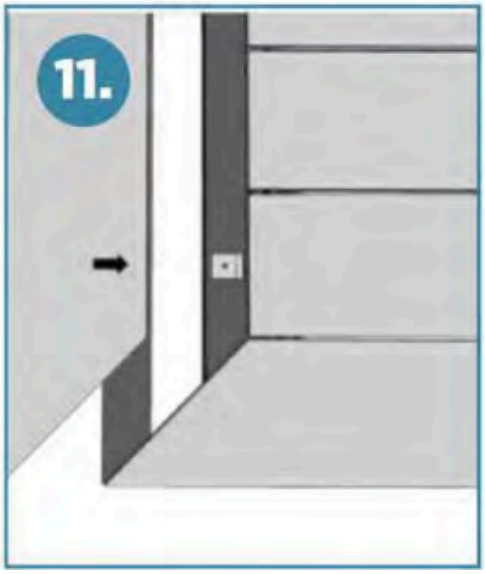
If you plan to install a picture frame border, ensure the substructure is correctly designed to support it.

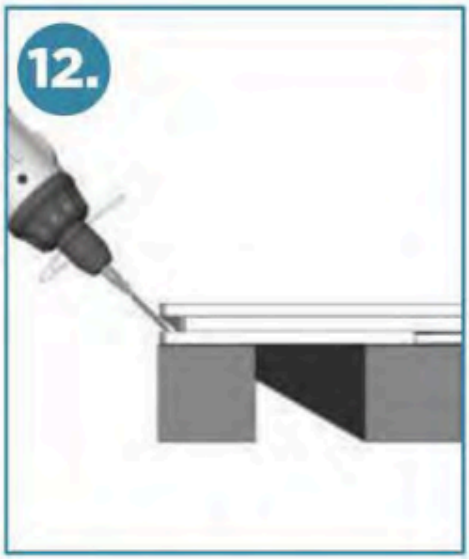
Double joists must be positioned beneath all sides where the picture frame border runs perpendicular to the main deck (Fig. 12). When the picture frame runs parallel to the deck, follow the installation method outlined on the previous page (Figs. 3-9), incorporating a 45-degree mitred edge (Fig. 11).

For boards running perpendicular to the main deck, attach starter clips to the inner joists to hold the inner board edge in place (Fig. 10). Install clips every 35mm along the joist length, then slide the board into the starter clips (Fig. 11). Maintain a 6-10mm expansion gap between the mitred edges.

Once the board is positioned, secure it by screwing into the outer edge (Fig. 12).







INSTALLATION - Edging Trims

Measure the required length of edging trim and cut it to size. If installing around corners, mitre the ends at a 45-degree angle (Fig. 13). Cover the deck edge with corner trim and secure it using screws.

Pre-drill 4mm countersunk pilot holes (Fig. 14) and fasten with 50mm countersunk screws. Avoid overdriving screws through composite materials—finish tightening by hand for a secure fit.

Corner trims should only be screwed into the deck, not the subframe. Ensure a minimum 4mm expansion gap where trims meet.

INSTALLATION - Decking Steps

Decking steps should be carefully planned to ensure a consistent rise and tread along the entire run.

- The step rise should not exceed 190mm, while the tread depth must be between 250-450mm.

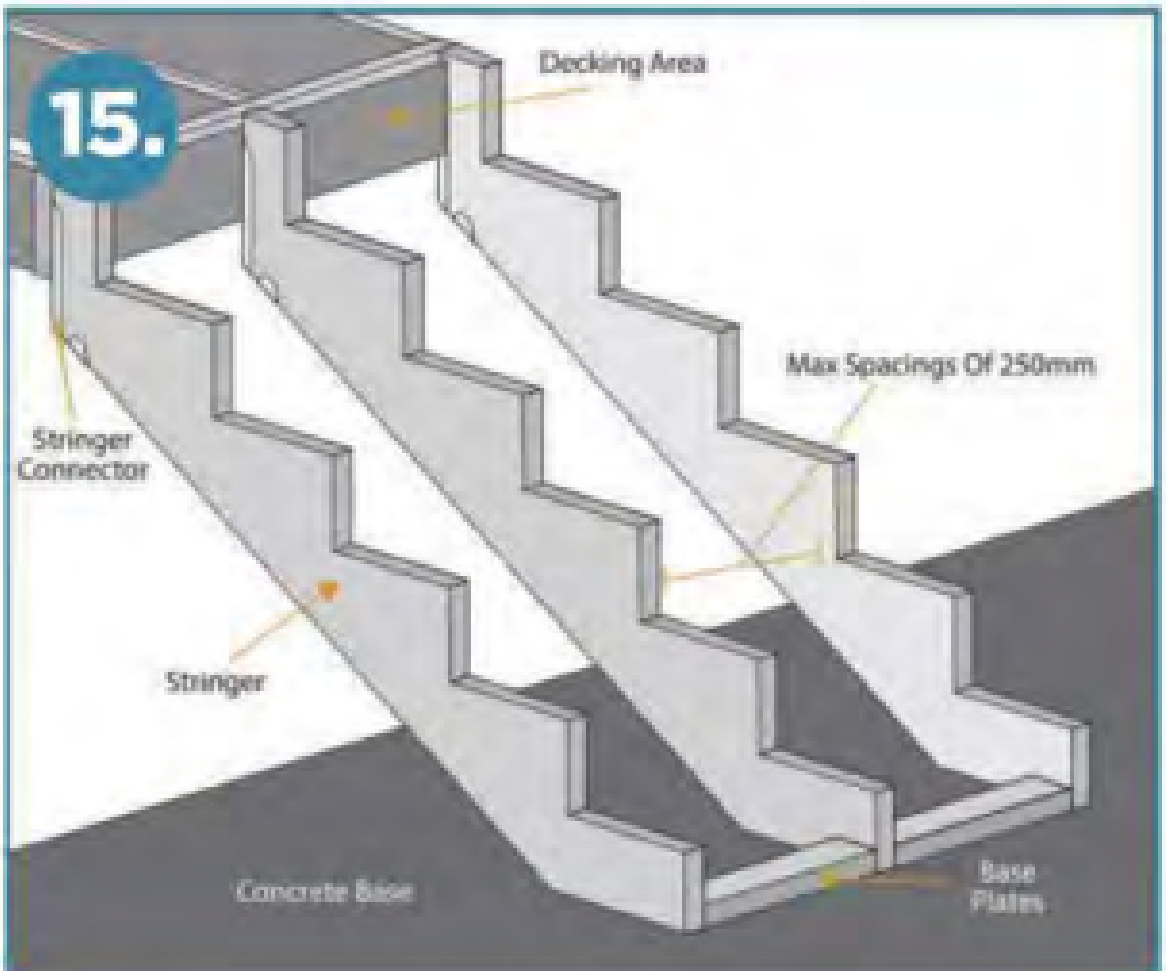
- A solid, level landing pad made of concrete or gravel is recommended to provide stable structural support beneath the step area.

- There are two primary methods for installing decking steps: Stringer Steps and Box-Framed Steps.

Stringer Steps (Fig. 15):

Stringer steps are typically constructed from timber and serve as a support structure spanning from the decking subframe to the base of the step area. A series of stringers create the framework for the steps.

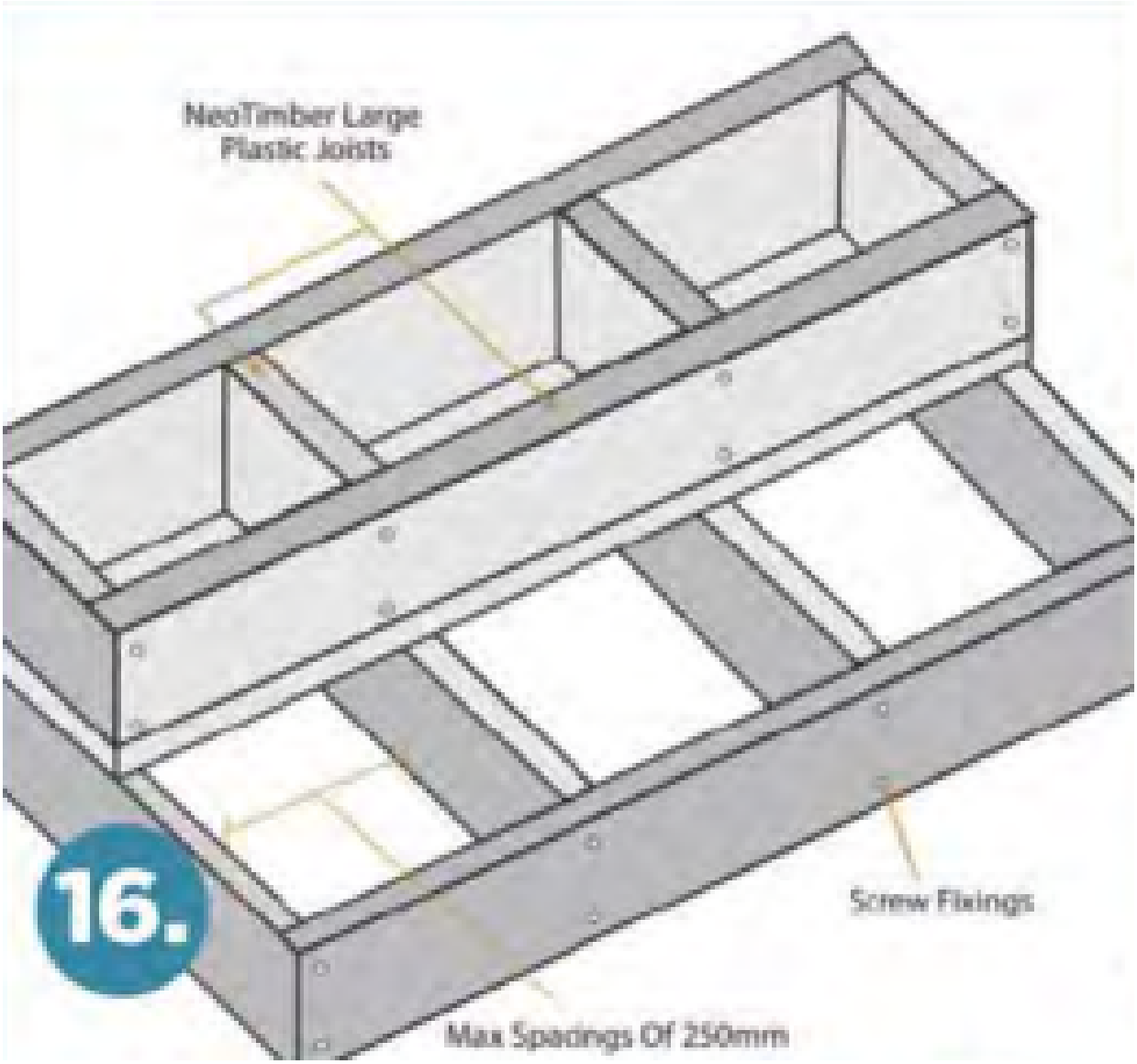
To form the rise and tread, cut notches into pressure-treated timber using a carpentry square and saw. To attach the stringer steps to your deck, reinforce the subframe behind the steps with a stair header and install a stringer connector for added stability.



Box-Framed Steps (Fig. 16):

Box-framed steps consist of stacked box structures that create a step run. Construct a box framework and reinforce it with joists spaced at 250mm intervals.

These steps can be built using timber, metal, or plastic joists. Secure the box-frame to the decking subframe at every intersection using appropriate fixings to ensure stability.

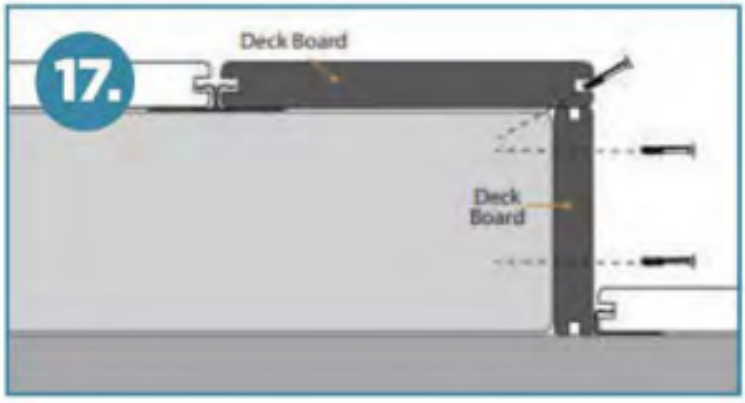


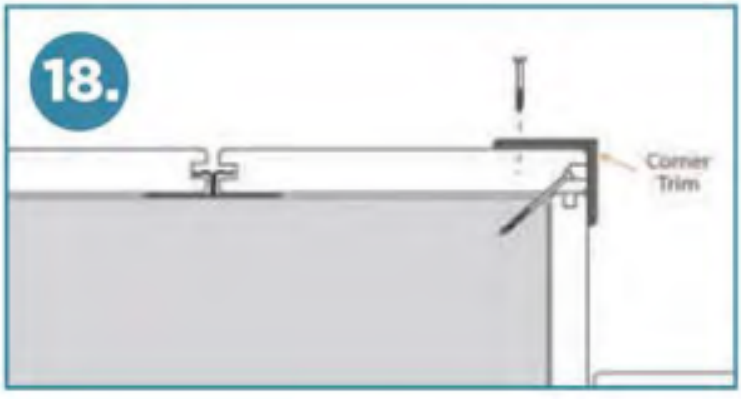
INSTALLATION - Decking Steps (cont)...

Secure the boards to form both the tread and riser of your steps, attaching them directly to the step framework using the T-Clip system where possible. For exposed grooved edges, either screw-fix them or use a composite screw for a clean finish (Fig. 17).

Attach the edging trim to the exposed board edges. Cover the deck edge with corner trim and fasten it with screws (Fig. 18). Pre-drill 4mm countersunk pilot holes and secure with 50mm countersunk screws. Avoid overdriving screws through composite materials—finish tightening by hand.

Corner trims should only be screwed into the deck, not the subframe.





Thank you for choosing

NorthValley
COMPOSITES

We hope you're as thrilled with our product as we are and that your fencing project turned out beautifully!

We'd love to see the finished results. For a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher, simply tag us in your photos on any of our social media platforms.