



## INSTALLATION GUIDE: Decking

The following serves as a guideline on how to install Rhino Wood for decking applications. Should these instructions not be adhered to, Rhino Wood cannot guarantee that your decking will perform as expected.

### BEFORE USE: Storage

Rhino Wood is specifically manufactured to be an outdoor product, however we still recommend that Rhino Wood is stored away from sun or rain. Indoor storage is ideal, but if stored outdoors please cover with a waterproof covering. Do not stack directly on the ground and ensure that there is adequate ventilation and drainage. This will avoid any damage to the product before the start of the build.

### THE BUILD: Substructure

A sound foundation is a critical element of a successful long-lasting deck and needs to be done in accordance with good building practices, standards and regulations. As always, proper ventilation, drainage and moisture run-off are essential.

#### Recommended material for Substructure:

- Pressure treated softwood. These should be treated to Use Class 4 – regardless of whether they are in contact with the ground or not.
- Galvanised steel or aluminium.
- Rhino Modified Wood

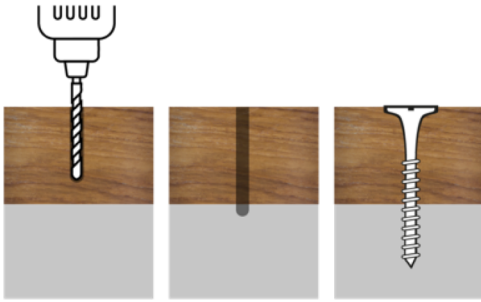
### THE BUILD: Preparing the timber



When installing and cutting cross sections, these 'exposed' surfaces do not require additional treatment or sealing. Rhino Wood is modified at a cellular level through to the core, resulting in zero durability weak spots when cutting or fixing on site.

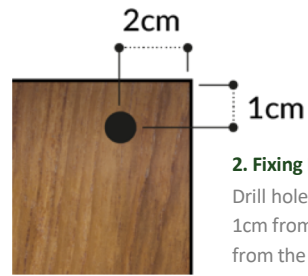
Additionally, you will not need to sand and seal the deck in order to protect it from fungal decay and termites.

## THE BUILD: Laying the deck



### 1. Pre-Drilling

Pre-drilling a pilot hole prior to fixing Rhino Wood (in all applications) is required. Screwing down the boards without pre-drilling may result in the boards cracking.



### 2. Fixing Placement

Drill hole recommended to be 1cm from the top and 2cm from the side edges.

### 3. Fixings

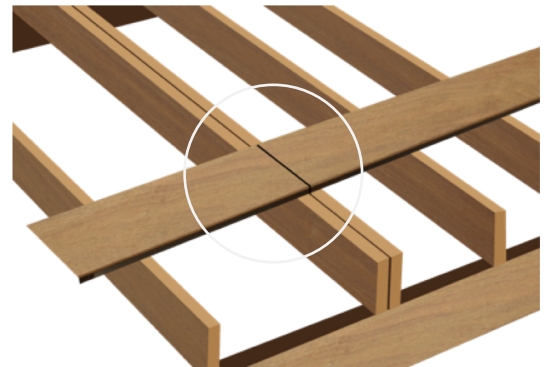
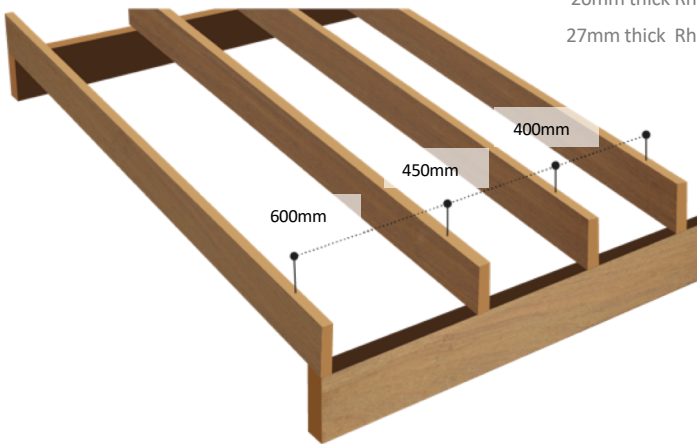
Stainless steel fixings are recommended for all installations.



### 4. Recommended joist spacing c/c (centre to centre)

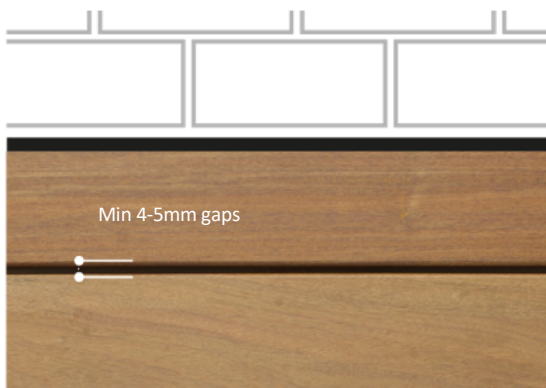
20mm thick Rhino Wood (450mm maximum joist spacing)

27mm thick Rhino Wood (600mm maximum joist spacing)



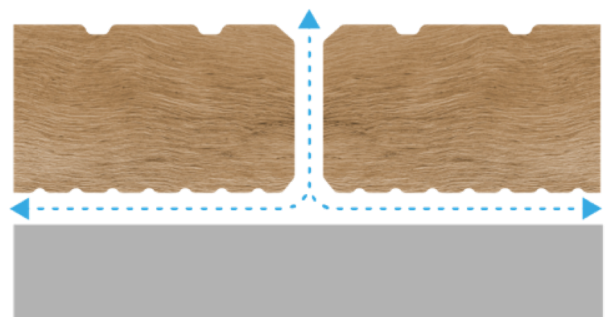
### 5. Butt Joining

When butt joining the timber, we recommend using a double joist on the butt join, in order to have enough surface area to fix the boards correctly to the sub-structure when installing with screws.



### 6. Gaps between boards

Industry standard 4-5mm gaps between decking boards to allow for drainage.



### 7. Ventilation

Adequate ventilation, drainage and moisture run-off in all applications needs to be considered.

If the deck is low to the ground (i.e. less than 500mm) and the ground does not have adequate drainage or run off, the remaining moisture can rise and become trapped underneath the deck. This causes the bottom of the decking board to be moist and cool and the top of the board to be dry and warm. The difference in the two surfaces of the board can lead to movement.

The best prevention is to allow ventilation by spreading a healthy layer of coarse gravel over a plastic membrane that allows the water to run away and then dry.

Skirting the lower sections of the deck also enables moisture to be trapped under the deck. This will again create two different atmospheres on the boards as explained above and can cause cupping.

Use narrower boards (20 x 100mm) or thicker boards (27 x 140mm) in areas where ventilation and moisture could be a problem, or the deck is low to the ground (i.e. less than 500mm). This can reduce the risk of swelling and cupping.

---

## AFTER BUILD: Maintenance



Rhino Wood will naturally weather to a silver / grey patina when exposed to sunlight. In fully exposed sun, the material takes 6 – 9 months to fully weather grey. This would remain its colour for the duration of its lifespan.

Varnish should never be used, but penetrating oils may be used. Washing your deck with sugar soap, water and a soft bristle brush is advised.

Please see our detailed Maintenance guide for further important information on maintaining your deck.

For more information on Rhino Wood please look at our website or find us on Instagram and Facebook.

### UK CONTACT DETAILS:

 [info@internationaltimber.com](mailto:info@internationaltimber.com)

 [www.internationaltimber.com](http://www.internationaltimber.com)

Rhino Wood received the World Wide Fund (WWF) Climate solver award. This award recognises businesses that are developing and commercialising innovations that reduce carbon emissions and boost energy access around the world.



Rhino Wood supports responsible forestry. Please request FSC® certified products when speaking to our sales team.



The mark of responsible forestry