

## Design tips:

For a sustainable, reliable and adaptable deck you can't look any further than traditional timber.

- Ensure the deck is protected from the elements with foliage cover so artificial weather barriers aren't needed, however position the decking so as to minimise leaf litter deposits on the surface.
- Look into any additional features that can make the space interesting- a fire pit with built-in seating around creates a great decked area.
- Boards placed at right angles to the home or building draws the eye away from the deck and into the empty space, whereas boards placed parallel to the wall emphasise the width of the decking.
- Allow for a suitable drainage gap – for seasonality expansion – 4-6mm should be fine.
- If the decked area is thin and narrow lay the boards across the short edge, so end-to-end butting doesn't cause a trip hazard.
- For complete peace of mind non-slip decking is the safest choice.
- To prevent build-up of rainwater drainage deck boards can be used, so water can permeate back into the ground.
- In comparison to composite decking, traditional timber swells to a much lesser extent, a valuable feature as structural damage can occur from swelling.
- In the summer months timber decking stays relatively cool whereas composite heats up, so much so that the surface is unbearable to walk on barefoot.
- Non slip timber decking has a far higher initial slip resistant rating than composite decking and crucially it will maintain its performance over a long period of time, whereas composite decking becomes slippery very quickly.
- To add to the safety aspect, a rubber non-slip decking board may be the best choice if the deck is going to be used by young children.

## Technical tips:

- Using deck boards with a grooved profile to their underside will aid drainage once they are fixed to the joists.
- Ensure an 'end seal' treatment is used on all cross cuts, notches and fixing holes, otherwise your preservative warranty will be void.
- Planning permission is required:
  - If the deck has a height of more than 300mm from the ground.
  - If it is positioned within 20 metres of the nearest highway.
- Domestic decking joist centres (uniform distributed load of 1.5kN/m<sup>2</sup> C16 strength graded joists)
  - Board 120mm x 28mm (Gripsure Home) 500mm
  - Board 145mm x 28mm (Gripsure Pro) 500mm
- Commercial decking joist centres (uniform distributed load of 4.0kN/m<sup>2</sup> C16 strength graded joists):
  - Board 120mm x 28mm (Gripsure Home) - 300mm
  - Board 145mm x 28mm (Gripsure Pro) - 400mm
- To convert square meters to linear meters:
  - For an ex 125mm board, multiply by 8.00 eg 25sq m x 8.00 = 200 linear m
  - For an ex 150mm board, multiply by 6.76 eg 25sq m X 6.76 = 169 linear m