

Technical Installation Guide

Installing Puraboard™ capped wood-polymer composite decking — top-fixing and side-fixing methods, with trims and fascia for finishing. Read in full before starting; correct installation guarantees a long deck life.



PRODUCT

Puraboard™

FIXING SYSTEM

PuraFix™ screws

APPLICATION

Decking

Read before installation

! IMPORTANT

This installation guide must be read in full before any work begins. Failure to follow these instructions will render the warranty null and void.

- 01** All Puraboard™ deck boards are intended for outdoor pedestrian use only. They must not be used for structural applications.
- 02** Before installation, store the boards flat at the worksite for at least **48 hours** to acclimatise.
- 03** Avoid all impact during unloading. Carry boards on their narrow edge for greater rigidity, and store them on a flat, level surface.
- 04** Boards have a lengthwise dimensional tolerance of **+3 cm**. As some may be supplied oversize, trim their ends to length before installation.
- 05** Offcuts may be disposed of with general construction waste.

— KEY POINTS TO FOLLOW

- **Ensure good ground drainage.** Make sure water cannot collect beneath the boards and that the structure stays well ventilated.
- **Ensure sufficient substructure height.** Raise the substructure enough to allow adequate airflow beneath the entire deck.
- **Respect the joist spacing.** Keep the centre-to-centre spacing specified for Puraboard™ — **400 mm** perpendicular to the boards, reduced to **300 mm** for residential diagonal layouts and **240 mm** for commercial (see Joist spacing).
- **Use a double joist at board joints.** Fit a double joist wherever two board ends meet on a timber substructure; on an aluminium substructure, a board-jointing square may be used instead.
- **Protect the joists.** Cover timber joists with barrier tape and set them on pads at least **5 mm** thick.
- **Respect the expansion clearances.** Leave **5 mm** around the deck perimeter and **4 mm** between boards. Expansion occurs mainly along the length of the boards.
- **Use the correct PuraFix™ fixings.** Use only the PuraFix™ top-fixing or side-fixing screws specified for your board. Within 3 km of the sea, use stainless-steel A4 (AISI 316) screws — contact us to order them.
- **Store on a suitable surface.** Before installation, keep the boards on a clean, hard, flat surface to prevent warping; a grass surface, for example, is not suitable.

Safety & first aid

Wear the correct protective equipment for any construction work. When cutting or processing Puraboard™, always:

- **Eye protection.** Safety glasses with side shields, or goggles.
- **Hand protection.** Protective gloves.
- **Cover skin.** Long-sleeved shirt and long trousers.

! IMPORTANT

The fibres are non-respirable, but mechanical abrasion during cutting can cause temporary skin or mucous-membrane itching. Follow the first-aid steps below if this occurs.

First aid — eye contact

- Do **not** rub or scratch the eyes.
- Immediately flush with plenty of water. After the initial flush, remove any contact lenses and continue flushing for at least **15 minutes**.
- If irritation persists, get medical advice or attention.

First aid — skin contact

- Wash off immediately with soap and plenty of cold water.
- Do **not** use warm water — it opens the skin's pores and lets fibres penetrate further.
- Do **not** rub or scratch the affected area.
- If skin irritation persists, call a physician.

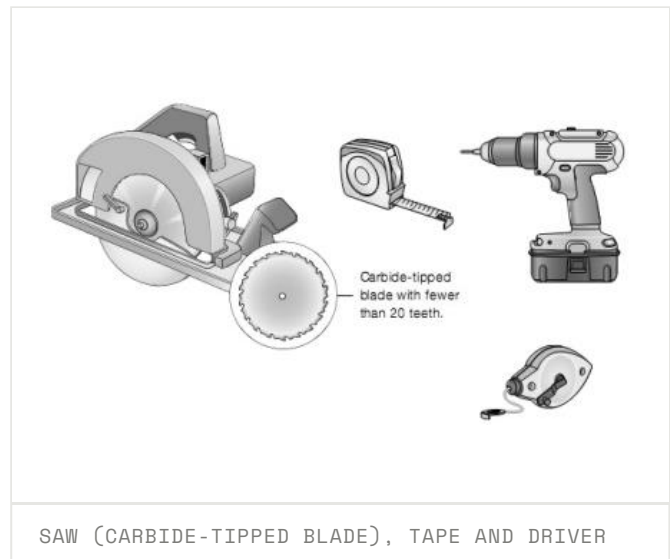
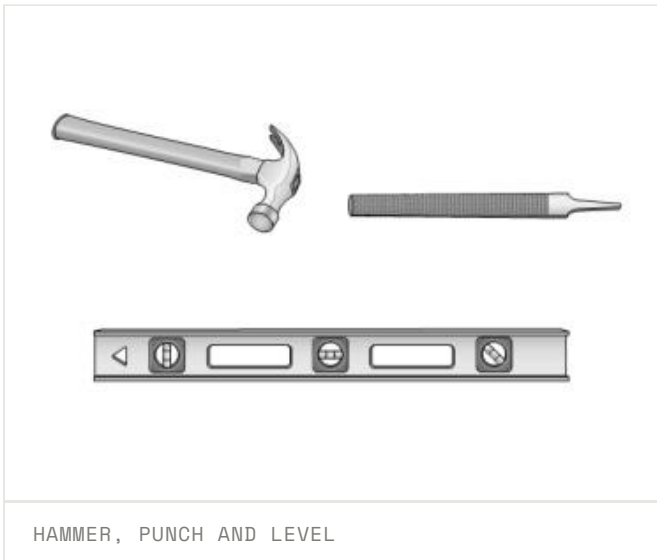
Tools & storage

03 / 08

Standard tools are all that is required. Store the boards correctly until installation to keep them flat and true.

Tools

- Hammer.
- Electric drill / driver.
- Saw with a carbide-tipped blade. Use a blade with fewer than 20 teeth.
- Measure and level.



Storage

- **Keep boards packaged.** Store in their original packaging, preferably in a well-ventilated, roofed place.
- **Always lie flat.** If installation is not immediate, keep the boards on a flat surface at all times — never on an uneven surface.

Profiles & fixings

04 / 08

Puraboard™ is supplied as a decking board with matching fascia, bullnose and flexible-trim edge profiles. Fix it with the matching PuraFix™ screws — the M4.3×60 side-fixing screw for the deck field, and the slim M3×40 screw for top-fixing and for the fascia and flexible trims.

Profile specifications

PROFILE	W (MM)	D (MM)	LENGTH (MM)	COVERAGE (M/M²)	MASS (KG/M)	SPAN (MM)
Puraboard™ Refined Grain	175	22	3600	5.68	3.51	400
Fascia board	185.5	16	3600	—	2.69	—
Bullnose board	150	22	3600	—	2.99	400
Flexible trim	48	22	3600	—	1.15	—

PuraFix™ screws & side-fixing tool

PURAFIX™ SCREW	SIZE	APPLICATION
Side-fixing · SS304	M4.3 × 60	Deck boards into timber structure ≥ 40 mm thick
Slim screw · SS304	M3 × 40	Top-fixing and fascia and flex trims

! IMPORTANT

Failure to use the specified PuraFix™ screws may cause surface damage or other quality issues and will invalidate the warranty.



PURAFIX™ SIDE-FIXING TOOL

Top-fixing method

Thanks to the capping material, Puraboard™ needs no clips. Top-fixing drives the slim PuraFix™ screw (M3×40) through the board face. On the Refined Grain board (175×22 mm) it is used to face-fix boards, and — where the deck is side-fixed — to secure the board ends and the last board.

- 01** **Lubricate the screws** before use for a smoother driving action. Top-fix the first board with the slim PuraFix™ screw (M3×40) so the head seats cleanly. Keep the board **5 mm** from walls and obstacles for expansion, drainage and ventilation. Sink the screw head **3–4 mm** below the surface — judge it by the change in resistance between the denser cap and the core.
- 02** **Lay the second board** with a **4 mm** gap between boards.
- 03** **Top-fix each following board** the same way through to the last board.

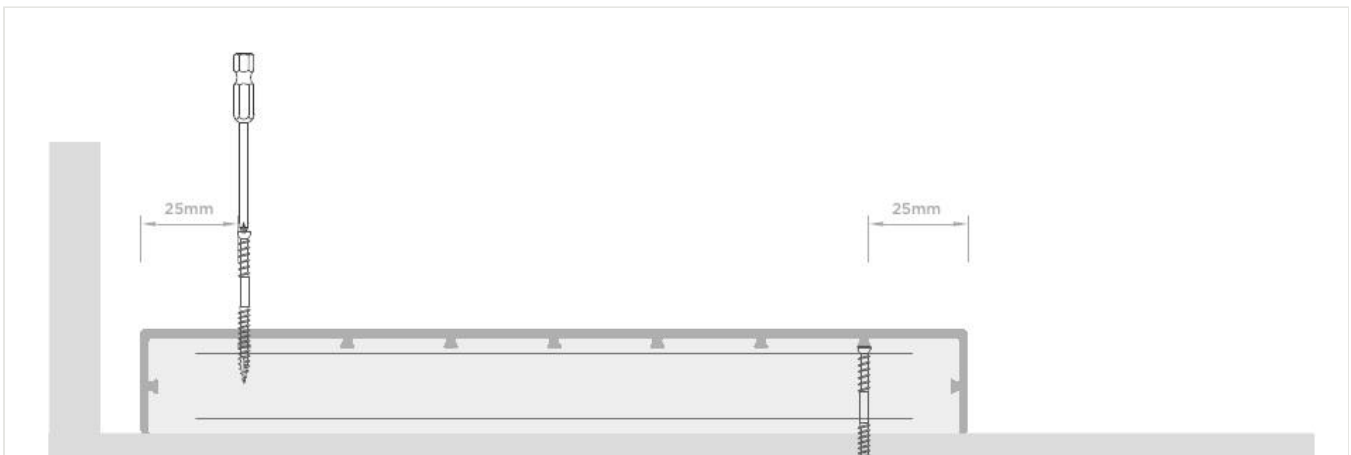


FIG. 1 — FIRST BOARD TOP-FIXED: 5 MM PERIMETER GAP, SCREW SUNK 3–4 MM

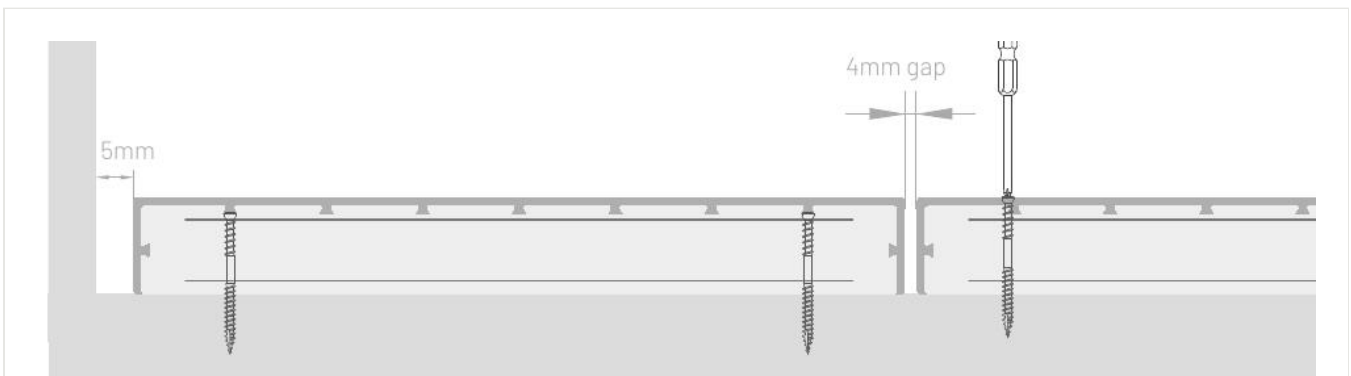


FIG. 2 — SECOND BOARD LAID WITH A 4 MM GAP

Side-fixing method

The side-fixing method conceals the M4.3×60 fasteners in the board edge using the PuraFix™ side-fixing tool, and is the primary way to fasten the deck field.

- 01 First board.** Fix both ends of the first board with the slim screw (M3×40) so the board cannot move.
- 02 Side-fix along the joists.** Clamp the board over each joist with the side-fixing tool, tighten it, then feed and drive the side-fixing screws (M4.3×60). Keep a **4–5 mm** gap — the tool sets a slightly wider gap than the 4 mm used for top-fixing.
- 03 Continue.** Repeat step 2 through to the last board.
- 04 Last board.** Where a wall or obstacle prevents side-fixing, top-fix the last board with the slim screw (M3×40).

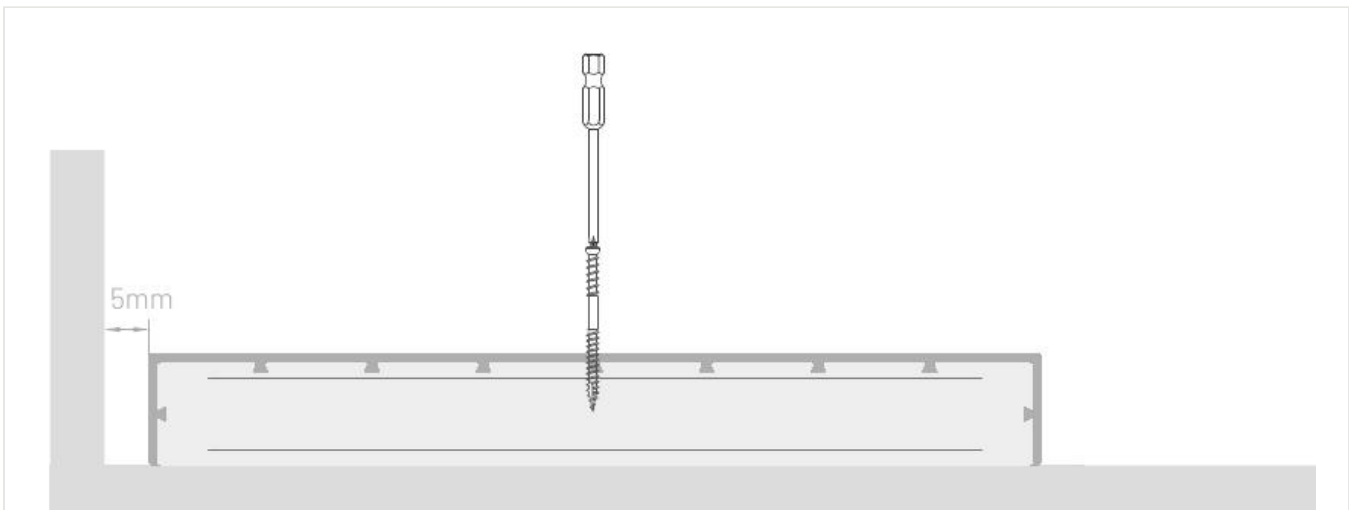


FIG. 3 – FIRST BOARD FIXED AT BOTH ENDS WITH THE SLIM SCREW



FIG. 4 – SIDE-FIXING TOOL CLAMPED OVER A JOIST, 4-5 MM GAP

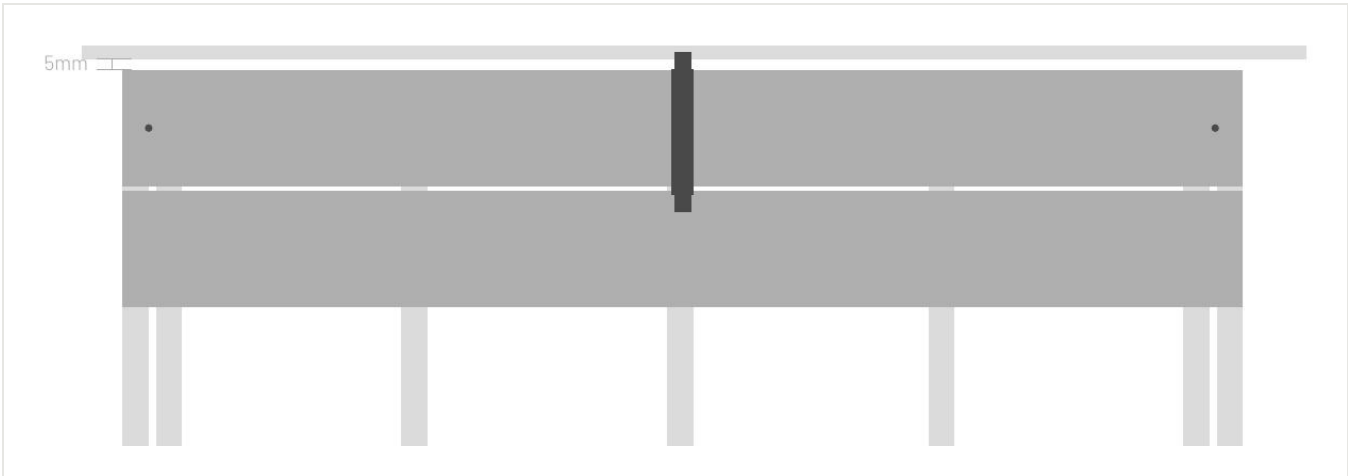


FIG. 5 – BOARDS SIDE-FIXED ACROSS THE JOISTS (ELEVATION)

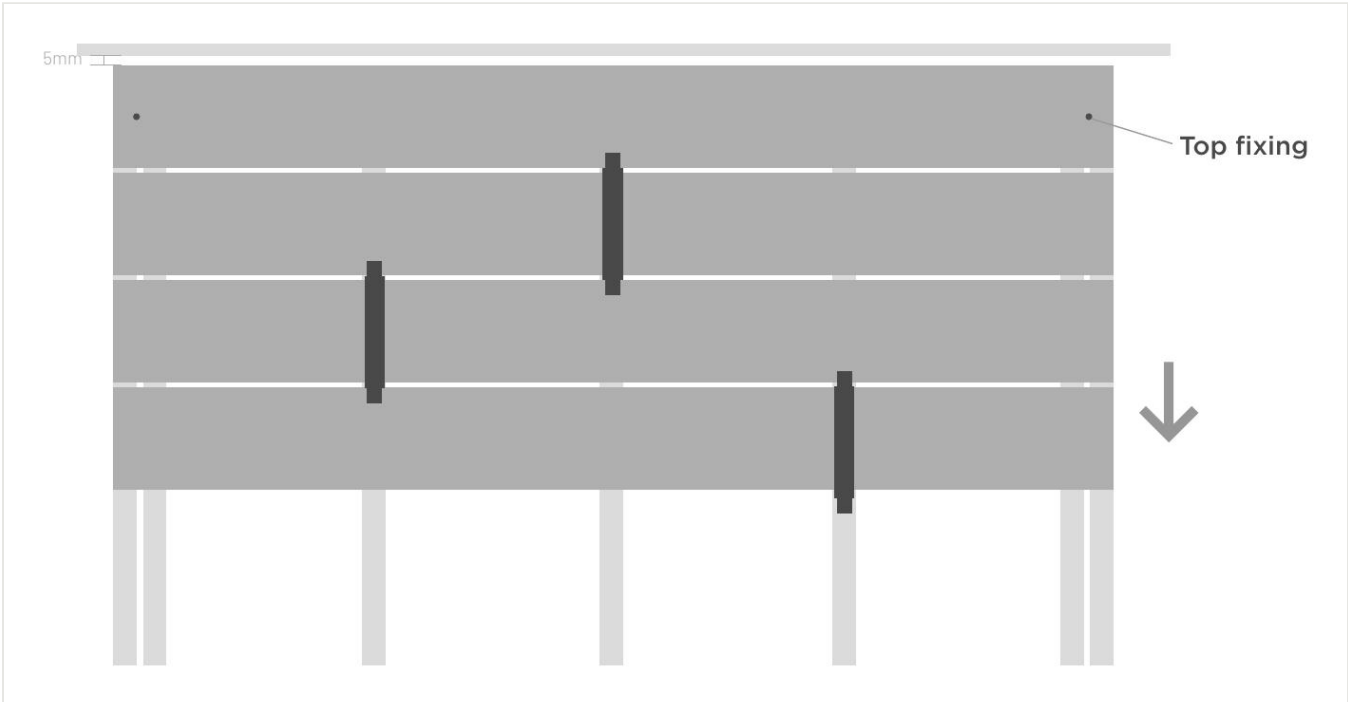
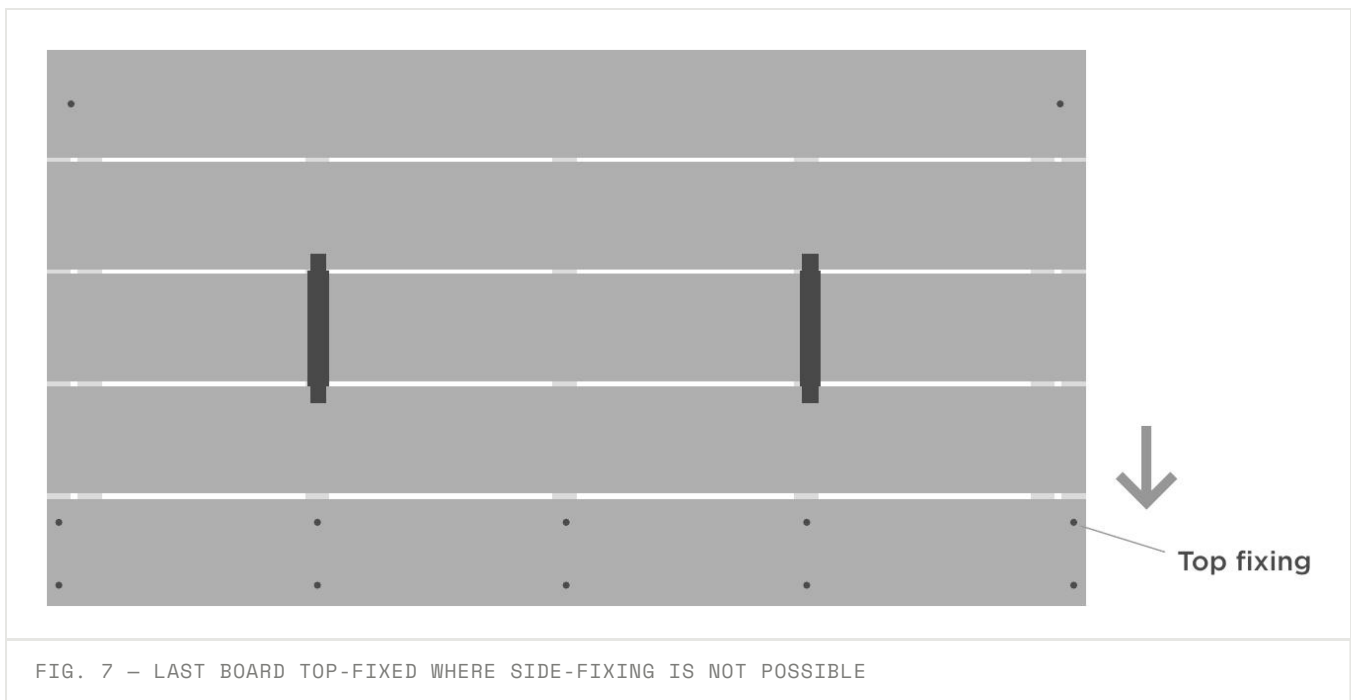


FIG. 6 – REPEAT THROUGH TO THE LAST BOARD

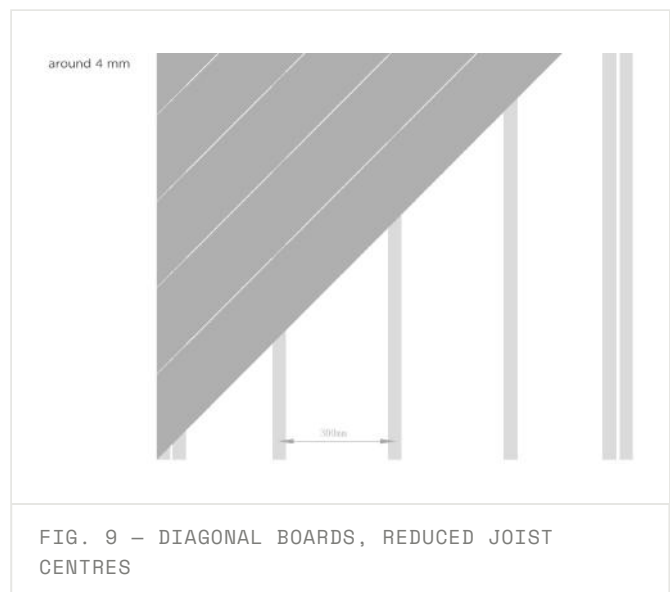
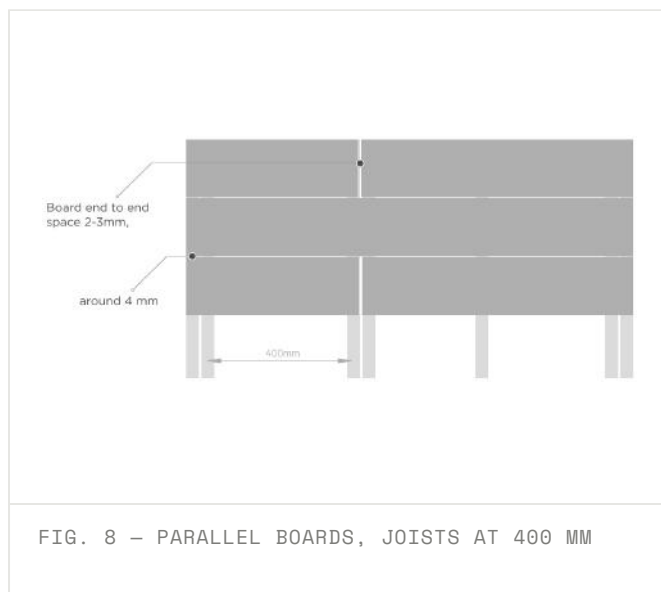


Joist spacing & fixing rules

Space the joists to suit the board direction, and place every fastener clear of the board edges to prevent cracking and pivoting.

Joist spacing

- **Parallel boards.** Joist span normally **400 mm**; leave a **4 mm** board end-to-end gap.
- **Diagonal (45°).** Reduce joist centres to **300 mm** for residential and **240 mm** for commercial installations.



Fixing-point location

- **Keep clear of edges.** Fasten boards **20 mm** or farther from any board edge, and **20 mm** to the next fastener, to avoid cracking.
- **At least two screws.** Use a minimum of two screws per board so it cannot pivot around one screw and crack.

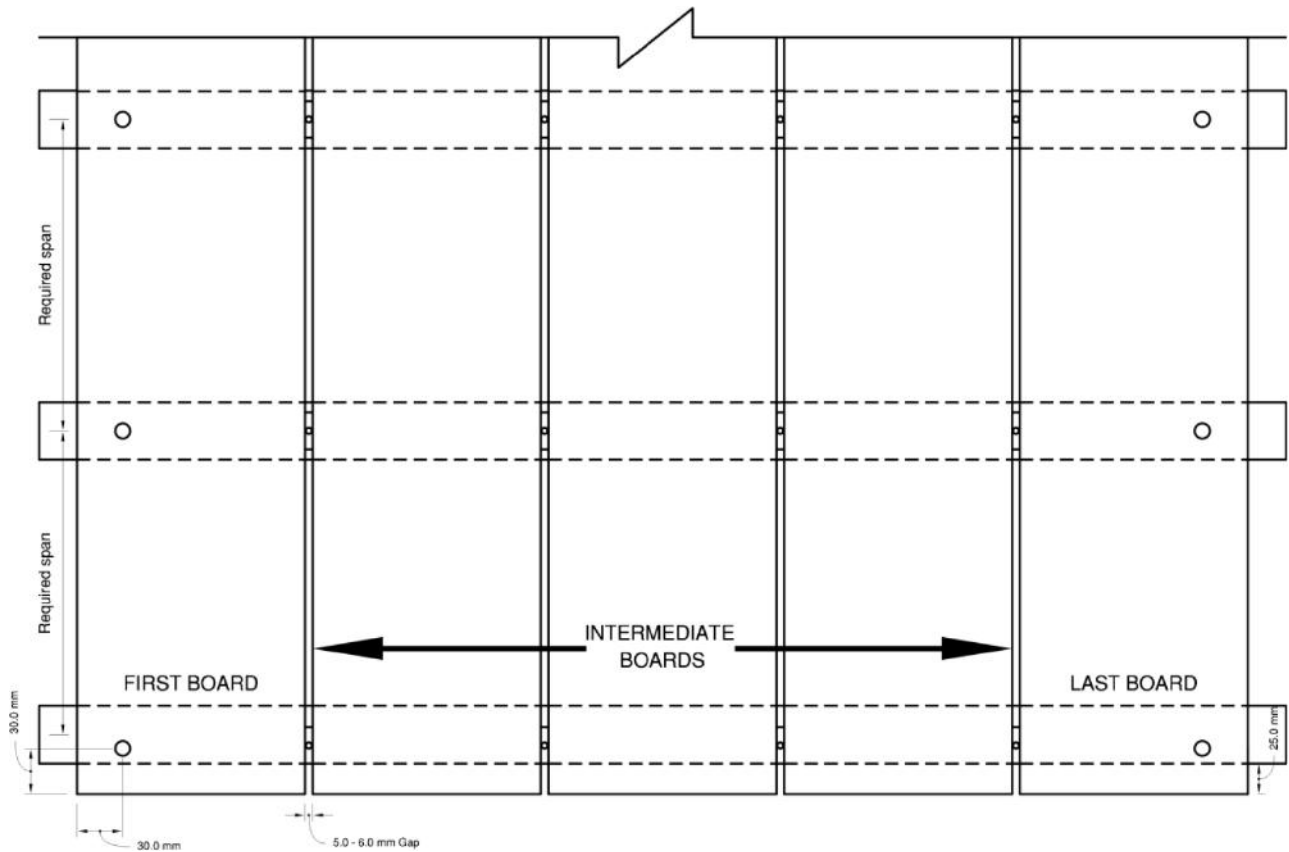


FIG. 10 – FIRST, INTERMEDIATE AND LAST BOARDS – FIXING POINTS

Triangular pieces

- **Fasten all three edges.** Small triangular pieces (from diagonal or mitred boards) should be fixed on all three edges to stop pivoting.
- **Small pieces.** Where three fixings will not fit, use two screws positioned to prevent pivoting.
- **Odd shapes.** Arrow-head and other odd cuts may need additional fasteners to prevent levering.
- **Plan the layout.** Set out the deck so neither end finishes with an overly small piece.

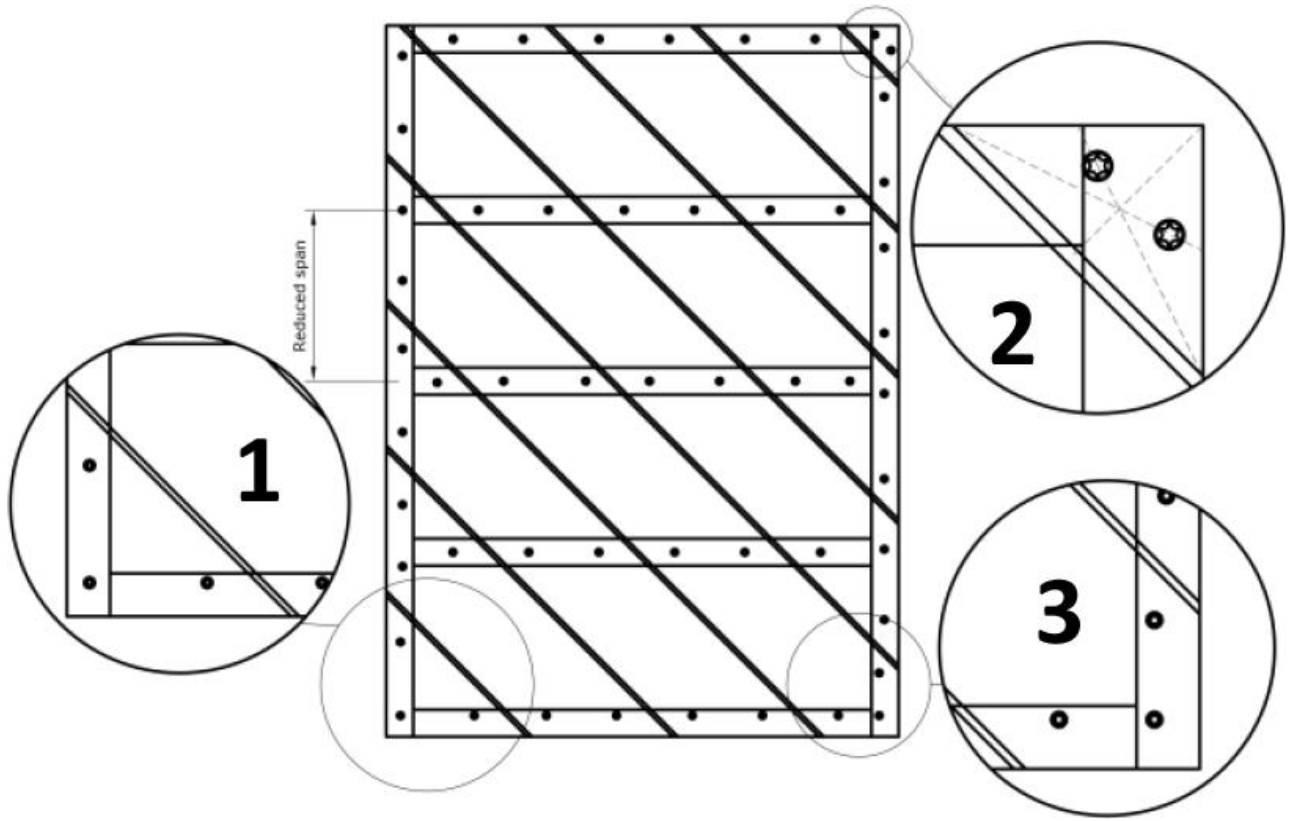


FIG. 11 – TRIANGULAR-PIECE FASTENING

Fascia & edge finishes

A matching Puraboard™ fascia board seals the deck edge in the same colour and grain. Choose the finish to suit the edge.

Flush finish

Seal the deck edge with the 16 mm fascia board flush to the deck surface. Do not fix the fascia as shown in the “not recommended” detail.

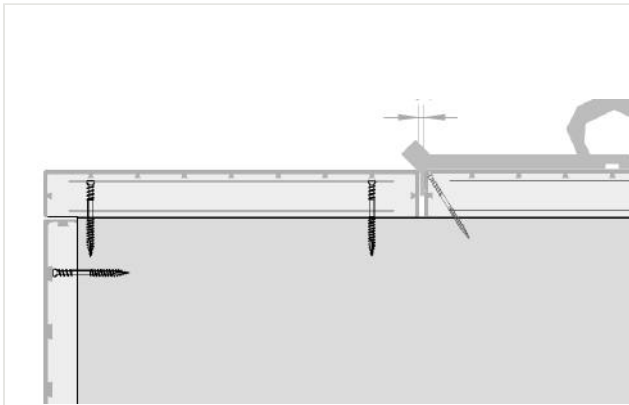


FIG. 12 – FLUSH FINISH, FASCIA BOARD SEALED TO THE DECK EDGE

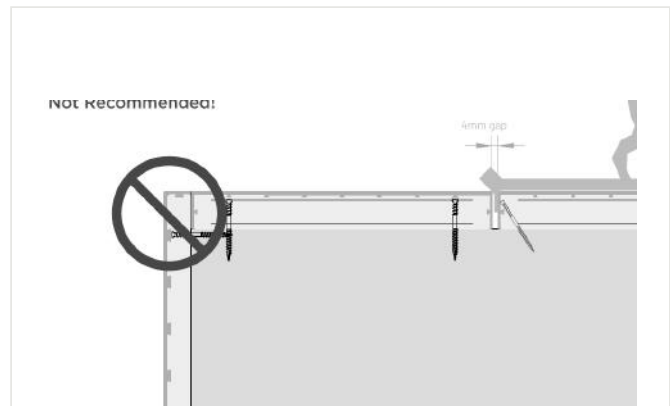


FIG. 13 – NOT RECOMMENDED

Overhang finish

- **Fascia fixing.** Fix the fascia board with the slim PuraFix™ screw (M3×40), around **50 mm** from the board edge.
- **Maximum overhang.** Maximum decking-board overhang is **10 mm**.

Flexible trim

- **Fixing.** Fix the flexible trim with the slim PuraFix™ screw (M3×40).
- **Curved edges.** The flexible trim can be bent to follow a curved deck edge.
- **Maximum overhang.** Maximum overhang for the flexible trim is **9 mm**.

Bullnose board

Puraboard™ also offers a bullnose board — a decking board with a rounded (bullnose) front edge that gives a clean, finished deck edge without a separate fascia.

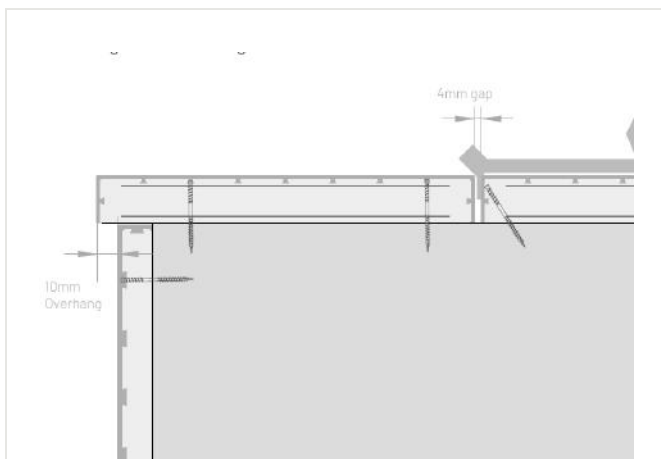


FIG. 14 – OVERHANG FINISH, MAX 10 MM DECKING OVERHANG

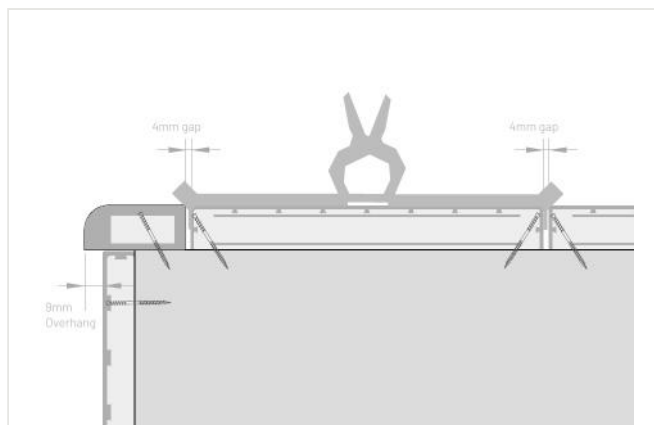


FIG. 15 – FLEXIBLE TRIM, MAX 9 MM OVERHANG

PuraComposite™

For technical datasheets, warranty terms, BIM/CAD files and sample requests, contact PuraComposite or visit puracomposite.com.

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