MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

Build a deck

- **An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.**
- **Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.**
- **Includes a materials checklist.**

PLEASE NOTE:
Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

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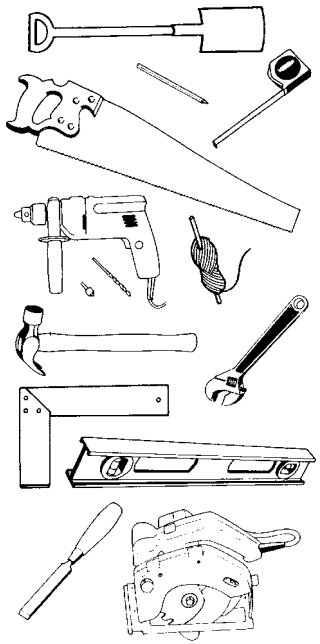
MIGHTY HELPFUL™ MITRE 10

MIGHTY TOOLS FOR YOUR MITREPLAN



Measuring tape
Pencil
Power drill & bits
Power saw or hand saw
Claw hammer
Carpenter's square
String line
Spirit level
Wood chisel, 20mm
Sliding bevel
Adjustable wrench
Shovel or
Post hole digger

✓ MIGHTY HELPFUL CHECKLIST

Timber

Your Mitre 10 specialist will be pleased to help you with the correct timber selection but if you stick to this guide you won't go wrong.

		ORDER
	Stumps: Cypress 100x100mm, Treated Pine 90x90mm or Concrete Stumps 100x100mm	
	Sole plates: Treated pine 200x50mm (Sleeper Material)	
	Bearers: Treated Pine 90x90mm	
	Joists: Treated Pine 90x45mm, 140x45mm, 190x45mm, 240x45mm	
	Decking: Treated radiata pine, merbau or whatever is currently in stock at Mitre 10 Sizes: 70 x 19mm, 70 x 22mm, 90 x 19mm, 90 x 22mm, 140 x 19mm, 140 x 22mm	
	Fixings	
	65mm x 2.8 Tita deck nail (Softwood Joist)	
	75mm x 3.75mm galvanised bullet head nails	
	100mm x 3.75mm galvanised bullet head nails	
	Masonry anchors (Dynabolts)	
	Concrete or rapid set mix	
	Decking stain if required	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

Building a deck is easy – with a little help from Mitre 10.

A well-designed deck is a relatively easy way to increase family living space around your home. It's like adding on an outdoor room that can be a perfect link for relaxed indoor/outdoor living. And it will also add value to your home. If you wish, you can even cover your deck by adding a pergola as you build it.

While design is largely a matter of personal taste, the deck you choose will depend on such factors as the shape of your land and its relationship to your home. Decks can be broadly classified into three main types:

Hillside decks, which take advantage of uneven or sloping blocks.

Low-level decks, that extend out at floor level on flat land, adding spaciousness to a family room or living area.

Isolated decks, that are used around swimming pools and other garden features such as gazebos, ponds and rockeries.

You will also have to decide which way you want your decking boards to run. The design we've shown you here has the boards running parallel to the house, but, if you prefer, you can easily adapt it for them to run diagonally, or away from the house.

Whichever type of deck you choose, building it is well within the capacity of the average home improver. And you'll get real enjoyment out of doing it yourself with the help of this step-by-step guide – and your local Mitre 10 specialist.

Before starting any work, find out if a building permit is required.

Step 1: Choosing and preparing your site

When choosing the site for your deck, note the position of the existing features of both your house and garden. Pay special attention to the location of drains and any external plumbing, because once your deck has been built, it will be hard to access the area under it.

Take ground preparation and drainage into account by laying some Agi Pipe or Nylex Strip Drain before you start building to avoid any surface water lying about underneath. Just follow the maker's instructions. Then rake the ground clear. It might be a good idea to add Weed Control Mat at this stage, too.

Step 2: Mark out your site

Accuracy at this stage can save a lot of hassles later on so take your time and don't rush.

Mark out the width and length of the deck where it will join the house.

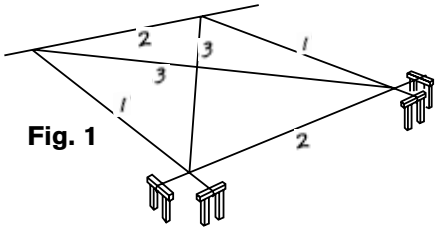


Fig. 1

Then, using any scrap timber, build corner hurdles and drive them into the ground, outside the designated area, two at each corner (Fig. 1). Fix nails in the hurdle top pieces and stretch a string line around them to form a box in the plan's dimensions (Fig. 1). Lines 1 and 1 should be parallel and the distance between them equal, as should lines 2 and 2. Measure between the diagonally opposite corners with a tape measure to ensure that lines 3 and 3 are the same length. You may have to adjust the position of the nails to achieve this. Once the diagonal measurements are equal and all lines are parallel, the job will be square and you are ready to set the stumps.

Step 3: Set the stumps

Space your stump holes every 1800mm out from the house and 1500mm apart (Fig. 2). Dig the holes 300 x 300mm square and 600mm deep. Dig them so that when the stumps are centred in them, the outside edges of the stumps are flush with the string line.

Before setting the stumps in the holes, place a timber sole plate in the bottom of each hole. Stand the stump on the sole plate (Fig. 3). You may need to brace the stump temporarily so it stays upright and straight (Fig. 4).

Fill the hole with a mixture of approximately 2 bags of concrete or rapid set mix and approximately 1-2 buckets of water per hole. Check stump is plumb and in correct position before concrete sets. Allow sufficient time to harden.

Step 4: Add the framing

If your house is weatherboard, ideally bearers should be joined to the existing bearers of your house. If your house is brick then you can connect a 140 x 145mm F.7. treated pine plate to the brickwork using suitable masonry anchors at 600mm intervals.

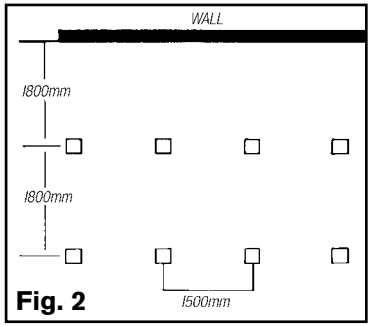


Fig. 2

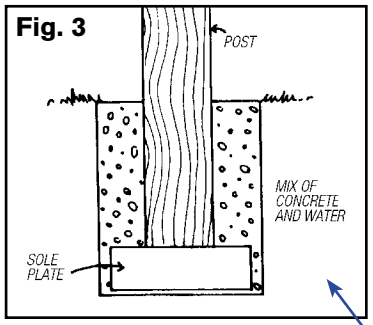


Fig. 3

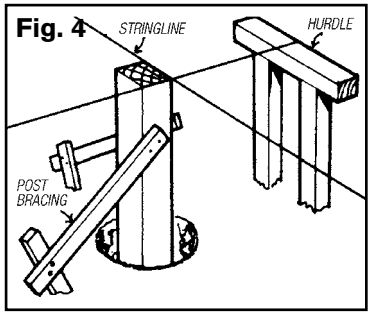


Fig. 4

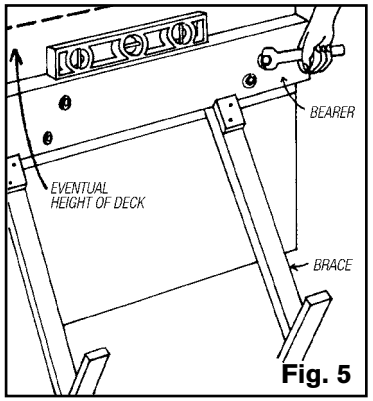


Fig. 5

Once the plate has been fixed and bearer height has been determined, transfer this onto other stumps using a straight edge and level or string line and level. Mark with a square and cut off stumps to correct height.

Skew nail (driving nails in at an angle – Fig. 6) at the remaining bearers onto stumps. Or use nail plates or framing anchors (Fig. 7). Check all levels and angles once again. Set joists on top of bearers every 450 – 600mm for hardwood decking, every 400mm for pine decking using the skew nail technique or galvanised framing anchors.

Step 5: Lay your decking surface

The decking surface will be the most visible part of your work, so take your time and check your progress as you go. Each decking board should be square to the others and, together, be square to the house. While decking boards are dressed, the odd one or two may be bowed and care should be taken that the bow is eased out as you nail them in place. Nail the boards to the joists using two galvanised decking nails at each point, placed approximately 15mm in from the edge of the board. Leave a gap of about 4mm (Fig. 8) between each board to allow for drainage. You can use a piece of suitably sized timber as a spacer, placing it into position against the previous board at each nail point and pulling the board against it as you nail. Drill each board end before nailing to avoid splitting. Make sure that joins in the boards are staggered and always occur over a joist.

To get a straight, even edge to the finished deck, let the ends overhang about 50mm, then trim them all together with a saw when you've completed laying all boards.

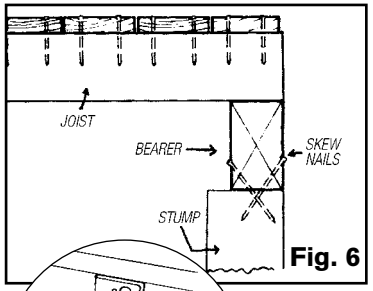


Fig. 6

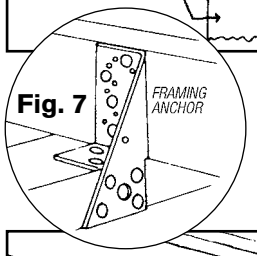


Fig. 7

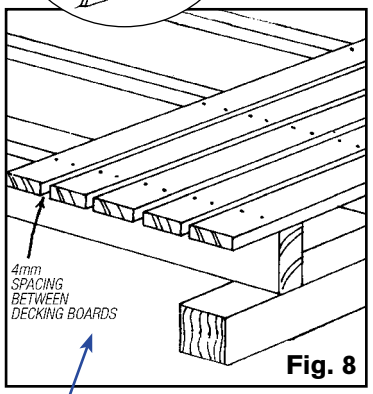
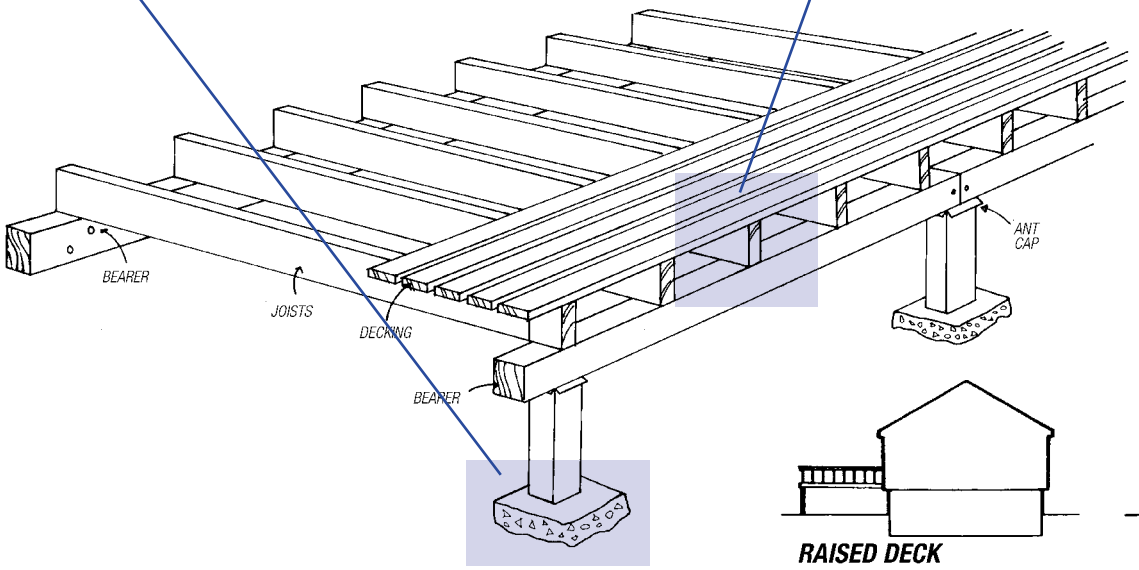


Fig. 8



Step 6: Finishing your new deck

If you have chosen a hard durable decking surface such as batu or merbau, a decking finish is optional. Treated radiata pine decking already comes in a natural green colour and doesn't normally require any added protection unless facing north or west. But remember, most timbers left to age naturally will turn to a silver grey colour over a year or so after completion. So consider painting or staining carefully.

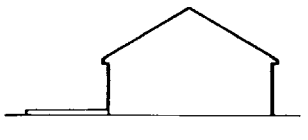
If you require something that will enhance and maintain the beauty of the timber you've chosen, then there are a number of attractive finishes you can use. Ask the paint staff at your local Mitre 10 store.

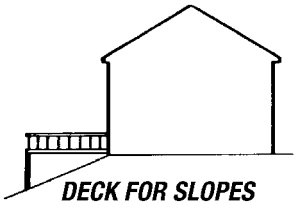
Now, all that's left to do is sit back and enjoy your new deck – and admire your own handiwork.

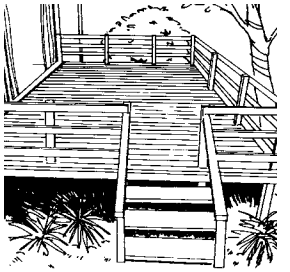
Deck Designs

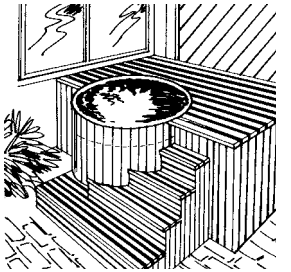
Building a timber deck in our own backyard is really a breeze. All decks are made in much the same way, so it's easy to adapt the basic techniques to your own site and your own lifestyle. Here's just a few examples to get you thinking – and designing your own.

RAISED DECK


GROUND LEVEL DECK


DECK FOR SLOPES





Build a deck

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

- Building a deck will be easier if you prepare all the tools and materials first.
- Be sure to take drainage of the site into consideration before you build. Once your deck is up, access will be limited.
- Lay Weed Control Mat over the area to prevent weed growth underneath.
- Measuring is easy, materials expensive. Double check all measurements and markings before you cut any piece of material.
- To get a straight, even edge to your finished decking, let the ends overhang about 50mm, then trim them all together with a saw when the job is completed.
- Remember, when using any power tool, your eyes should always be protected by wearing suitable goggles.
- Depending on the size and construction of your deck you may need the approval of your local Shire or council before you start.

Your local MITRE 10 Store is: