



General considerations

- Have you consulted your local council regarding permits and requirements? Yes No
- Do you live in a bushfire prone area? Yes No
If so, the design for your deck will be dependent on your house's 'Bushfire Attack Level', or BAL.
- Do you live in a cyclone-prone area? Yes No
If so, your deck will need to be constructed in a way that accounts for the potential winds it may experience, and will need to comply with the cyclone code.
- What sort of deck do you intend to build? (tick more than one if necessary)
 - Freestanding deck Yes No
 - Multi-level deck Yes No
 - Pool or spa deck Yes No
 - Deck to increase living area Yes No
- Are you building on reactive soil? Yes No
If so, you may need to consult a structural engineer to plan appropriate footings.
- What sorts of utility connections will be connected through your deck?
 - Electricity Yes No
 - Gas Yes No
 - Water Yes No
 - None Yes No
- Are you planning on getting builders in or doing it yourself?
 - Builders Yes No
 - DIY Yes No
- What type of material are you going to use for the decking?
 - Jarrah Yes No
 - Red Gum Yes No
 - Spotted Gum Yes No
 - Silvertop Ash Yes No
 - Merbau Yes No
 - Pine Yes No
 - Bamboo Yes No
 - Wood plastic composite (WPC) Yes No
 - uPVC Yes No
 - Other Yes No



- What material(s) are you going to use for the support structure?
 - Treated pine or other in-ground rated wood Yes No
 - Steel Yes No
 - Bricks Yes No
 - Other Yes No

- Are the fastenings you're using a minimum of hot-dip galvanised steel? Yes No
- Are you going to use decking oil or decking stain?
 - Oil Yes No
 - Stain Yes No
 - Other treatment Yes No
 - None Yes No

- Will your deck require a handrail? Yes No
Decks higher than 1m require a handrail at least 1m high, with spacings no greater than 125mm between balusters.
- Will your deck be higher than 4m? Yes No
Handrails on decks higher than 4m must not have any climbable elements located between 150mm and 760mm of the floor.
- Do you need to make allowances for stairs or ramps? Yes No
- Will your deck incorporate a pergola? Yes No
- Has the site been adequately cleared? Yes No
Pool site preparation may lead to soil re-settling after the deck has been installed and cause damage or instability – consider things like roots left over from tree-stumps and back-filled land.
- Have you allowed for site drainage? Yes No
- Will your deck be built to accommodate trees or other large flora? Yes No
Trees can cause damage to decking in a number of ways - both above ground and with their roots.
- Have you guarded properly against termites and insects? Yes No
- Have your boards been laid with the grooves down? Yes No
These grooves are designed to improve water runoff, not act as an anti-slip measure.

