



“There’s nothing more *satisfying* than laying your own garden deck this weekend...

soon after, you can sit back and *enjoy the fruits* of your own labour with a great family barbeque!”



To ensure your project goes smoothly, it’s best to plan in advance and assemble all the materials and tools you need before you start work...

Tools you may require;

drill,
handsaw,
or power saw,
spirit level,
set square,
screwdriver,
spade,
tape measure,
gloves.

The materials required;

ballast,
cement,
sharp sand,
wood joists,
decking boards,
ss countersunk screws,
or galvanised nails,
weed membrane,
timber preservative.

You can find everything you need for your project at Applegate Garden’s, visit www.applegategardens.co.uk.



Follow these 5 easy steps;

1. Using a scaled plan of your deck, mark out it’s position and clear the site of all vegetation. Level and compact the surface. If the area has an existing hard surface like concrete or slabs, these can remain under the deck.
2. If you’re going use new concrete pads to support the deck, dig out a cube of soil 300 mm x 300 mm x 450 mm deep (12” x 12” x 18” deep) and fill in with concrete. Old paving slabs may also be used, but for the most solid deck, I would recommend new concrete pads. Space your support pads no more than 1800 mm or 72” apart.
3. Once your support posts have set, lay your network of joists on top of these, checking they are level with each other (following the required slope) using a spirit level as you go. To ensure the structure can support each deck board adequately, position your joists approx 400 mm (16”) apart.
4. Lay out the decking boards at right angles to the joists. Check at this stage that the joists do not sag or bow under your weight. At this point, you must add more supports if necessary. Once you are happy and have cut any boards slightly oversize to fit, you can then start to secure the boards to the joists.
5. Try to ensure the gaps remain constant between your boards. Stagger the joints so no continuous breaks occur across the deck. Use galvanised nails or stainless steel countersunk screws to secure each decking board in place, using at least two in each joist position.

For more detailed advice on landscaping for beginners visit www.applegategardens.co.uk



You must also remember;

Your deck must be at least 150 mm or 6” below your house DPC (Damp Proof Course) if it’s next to the house. Slope the deck away from walls or fence, a slope of just 25 mm over 1.5 m (or 1:60) should be sufficient.

decking_1