



A step-by-step guide to  
**creating your outdoor room with**

  
**arbordeck™**  
the complete decking system

## Building a simple deck is easily accomplished by any competent DIY enthusiast.

By choosing Arbordeck you have selected a complete decking system, manufactured by a British company with over 160 years' experience in the timber trade, and an established reputation for industry knowledge, product quality and service.

With Arbordeck you will benefit from our extensive research into the best decking products, the finest Northern European Redwood and the best of British manufacturing processes.

And, because we are members of associations established to provide you, the customer, with unrivalled peace of mind, you can be assured of a first class product and service.

### THE BEST PROTECTION

Arbordeck components are manufactured from pressure treated timber, which has been impregnated with the environmentally advanced TANALITH® E wood preservative. This treatment gives long term protection against fungal and insect attack, for both in and out of ground contact applications.



### TREATMENTS & MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of your Arbordeck components couldn't be simpler. A range of brush applied products is available to ensure the very best care in the construction and subsequent maintenance of your deck.

#### ENSELE®

Available in 1 and 5 litre cans, Ensele® is an end grain preservative which must be applied to any cuts or notches made to the timber during construction to maintain the integrity of the preservative treatment and the performance warranty.



#### WAXCOAT™

Available in 2.5 and 5 litre tins, Waxcoat™ can be used every two to three years to add a water repellent protection to the timber.



#### ANTISLIP™

Available in 1 and 2.5 litre cans, Antislip™ is a clear, coarse aggregate coating that can be applied to steps and around water features to help provide sure footing in wet weather.



#### OWATROL

A superior tried and tested range of deck treatments including colours, stains, finishes, oils, cleaners and restoration fluids.

Available through Arbordeck distributors by arrangement with Geedon Ltd, Owatrol products help retain the natural beauty of wood, and can be used on all your garden furniture to achieve a cohesive look.



# making a start.....

The following pages are designed to be an introduction to deck building.

For more detailed information consult the Timber Decking Association's Timber Decking Manual (01977 712718) or any specialist book on deck building.

Our deck has a height of less than 600mm; for decks above this height we recommend you consult an installer. If you are unsure at any stage of building your deck, it is advisable to seek advice from a professional.



A video of our project is also available (see back cover for details of how to order).

Special thanks to Darren Turner of Distinctive Landscapes for his invaluable assistance in the production of both the video and this brochure. Telephone 07967 196270.

1



## BEFORE YOU START

When using power tools we recommend the use of safety glasses and a dust mask. Always wear gloves to protect your hands from rough timber.

2



## PREPARING THE SITE

Using the plans mark out the site with pegs and string. Clear the site of vegetation including turf. Lay a weed suppressant membrane.

3



Cover the area with 50mm depth of gravel. Determine the position of the support posts. Dig a hole 600mm deep and 600mm in diameter. Fill with concrete and leave to set for at least 24 hours.

4



Mark out the position of the ledger on the wall. The finished deck surface must be at least two brick courses below the damp proof course.

5



After cutting to length attach the ledger to the wall with suitable bolts. A 10mm gap should be spaced between the wall and the ledger to ensure drainage.

6



Ensure that all cut surfaces are brushed with Ensele®. Apply several coats, following the manufacturers instructions. Failure to do this will invalidate your preservative warranty.

7



If there is not room below your damp proof course to build a deck without excavation, consider a free standing deck, leaving room between the house and deck to prevent water standing or splashing against the wall.

8



## ATTACHING THE JOISTS

After marking the position of the joists at 400mm centres on the side beams, attach the joist hangers with galvanised nails. Use an offcut from a joist as a guide.

9



Using temporary braces for support attach the beams to the ledger. Allow for some adjustment to ensure the deck will be square and level.

10



Attach the end beam using landscape screws.

11



Check the beams are square using a 3, 4, 5 square, reinforcing all the corners using a framing anchor.

12



Adjust the height of the side beams to allow a slight fall in the deck away from the house. This will ensure the deck drains correctly.

13



Accurately position the post bases and attach using expanding bolts.

14



Attach the posts to the beams using coach bolts or landscape screws.

15



Where possible make sure the original treated end of the post is on the ground and attach using galvanised or stainless steel screws.

16



After treating the cut ends of the joist with Ensele®, nail in place into the joist hanger. If you are using the contemporary handrail system you can now start to fix your deckboards.

17



#### ATTACHING THE NEWEL POSTS

Calculate the height of the handrail by placing all the components on the newel post. Mark the height of the top of the joist.

18



If the deck is greater than 600mm from the ground the handrail must be at least 900mm from the deck surface.

For decks at higher levels consult an installer or constructional engineer for advice.

19



Ensure the newel post is vertical and attach it to the inside of the beams with landscape screws or coach bolts. Repeat this process around the inside perimeter of the deck, spacing the posts at a maximum of 1800mm centres.

20



#### LAYING THE DECK BOARDS

After carefully marking the boards notch out positions for the posts and treat with Ensele®.

21



When notching the boards leave a 2 - 3mm gap around the post to allow for movement of the boards.

22



Attach the first two boards by screwing through the surface using galvanised or stainless steel deck screws.

23



Nail the deck clips to the leading edge of the board. Space the deck clips about 50mm from each joist.

24



For speed of fitting prepare several boards in advance.



25



Push each board against the previously fixed board. The deck clips should fit under the fixed board. They should give a minimum of 3mm gap between the boards.

26



Skew screw through the side of the deck board to attach the board to each joist. If necessary pre-drill at the ends of the boards to prevent splitting.

27



Once all the boards are fixed, determine the position of the edge of the deck. Attach a baton as a temporary guide line.

28



Using the guide line trim the excess board with a circular saw. Remove the guide baton.

29



Don't forget to brush the cut ends with Ensele®.

30



#### ATTACHING THE SPINDLES AND HANDRAIL

Using a tape, measure the distance between the newels on the handrail and cut to length.

31



Starting from the centre mark the position of the spindles on the handrail. For easier fitting start the screws in position on the rail before attaching the spindles.

32



Use a spacer to ensure that the spindles are evenly spread. The maximum gap between the spindles must be no more than 100mm.

33



Lay the spindles flat and attach the bottom rail using the galvanised or stainless steel screws.

34



Fix the brackets using the screws provided.

35



Use supports to help ensure the rail is level. Make sure there is sufficient space to fit the bottom angle brackets.

36



To prevent the top bracket being seen, fix the bracket so the vertical plate is above the top rail.

37



Gently knock the finished rail into place. Use an offset to prevent damage to the rail.

38



#### ADDING THE STEPS

Mark the level along the length of the side beam.

39



Checking for the vertical attach the furthest stair stringers.

40



Secure the stringer by skew screwing to the beam or using a framing anchor.

41



Attach additional stringers to ensure the maximum distance between them is no more than 400mm on centre.

42



Holding the newel post vertical attach using landscape screws. Remember this post is resting on the ground and so should be supported by a concrete pad and post base.

43



Starting from the bottom fix the boards by screwing through the face into the stair stringers.

44



The finished deck fitted with the Arbordeck classic handrail. The sides of our deck have been cloaked with deck boards. Adequate ventilation has been provided to allow the substructure to dry after rain.

## Fitting the Arbordeck contemporary style handrail

45



The top of the handrail should be 900mm from deck level. Mark this height on the newel post.

46



Pre-drill 2 landscape screws into position.

47



Holding the post vertical and with your mark at deck level, attach the post using the landscape screws.

48



Ensuring the back rail is square with the newel post fix using two or more galvanised or stainless steel screws.

49



Cut the end of the top rail at a 45 degree mitre (for a 90 degree join) and fix using screws or deck rail ties.

50



Cut the next piece of handrail at 45 degrees, butt to the original piece and fix using screws or deck rail ties.

51



Calculate the spacing required on each spindle (max 100mm) and attach using a spacer as a guide.

52



For easier assembly consider using two newel posts on each corner.

53










The finished deck fitted with the Arbordeck contemporary handrail.



## Deck boards (depth / width / height)

### Pattern B deck board - reversible

	38 x 125 x 2400	38 x 125 x 4800
	38 x 125 x 3000	38 x 125 x 5100
	38 x 125 x 3300	38 x 125 x 5400
	38 x 125 x 3600	38 x 125 x 5700
	38 x 125 x 3900	38 x 125 x 6000
	38 x 125 x 4200	
	38 x 125 x 4500	

### Contemporary 4 deck board - smooth available in various lengths

	38 x 100
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### Contemporary 6 deck board - smooth available in various lengths

	38 x 150
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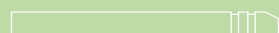

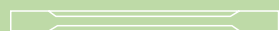
Contemporary 4 and Contemporary 6 deck boards used together






## Support timbers (depth / width / height)







### Regularised, graded treated joists

	47 x 100 x 2400	47 x 150 x 4200
	47 x 100 x 3000	47 x 200 x 3600
	47 x 100 x 3600	47 x 200 x 4200
	47 x 150 x 2400	47 x 200 x 4800
	47 x 150 x 3000	100 x 100 x 2400
	47 x 150 x 3600	100 x 100 x 4800


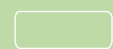
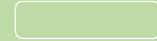
## Support timbers (depth / width / height)

Slender newel 	83 x 83 x 1250
Patrice newel 	83 x 83 x 1250
Turned treated newel post 	90 x 90 x 1250
Stop chamfered treated newel post 	90 x 90 x 1250

Square treated newel post 	90 x 90 x 1250
Slender treated spindle 	32 x 32 x 900
Turned treated spindle 	41 x 41 x 900
Stop chamfered treated spindle 	41 x 41 x 900
Square treated spindle 	41 x 41 x 900


Treated utility rail 	32 x 66 x 1800
Treated patrice cap 	32 x 66 x 3600
Treated ball cap 	110 x 110 x 25
Treated ball cap 	85 x 85 x 130
Pre-drilled curved newels 	90 x 90 x 1200
Deckorators™ pre-drilled handrail 	50 x 100 x 1800

## Contemporary handrail components (depth / width / height)

Modern treated spindle (with 45° chamfer at base) 	41 x 41 x 1000
Contemporary 4 rail (back rail) 	38 x 100 x 2400 38 x 100 x 3000 38 x 100 x 3600 38 x 100 x 4800
Contemporary 6 rail (top rail) 	38 x 150 x 2400 38 x 150 x 3000 38 x 150 x 3600 38 x 150 x 4800

## Ironmongery

Joist hanger 	Staircase angle 
Adjustable post base 	Deck clip with nails 
Framing anchor 	Landscape screw 100, 150, 200mm 
	Angle bracket with screws 

Bench bracket 	Stair bracket 
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63mm standard decking screws  
150 x M10 coach bolts with nuts and washers  
100mm galvanised round wire nails  
4.5 x 70mm performance deck screw  
63mm stainless steel deck screw  
60mm stainless steel finishing screw



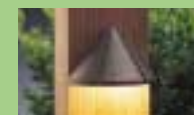
Deckorators™ handrail



Contemporary handrail and modern spindle



Stainless steel rope



A full range of lighting accessories is available



A wide range of Arbordeck components and fixings is available

Note: All dimensions given on this page are nominal and are in mm. Timber is a natural product and when exposed to the elements there may be some surface degradation and/or movement due to the natural action of sunlight and moisture. This is a natural process and does not affect the strength of the timber. You can minimise the effect by the regular application of a treatment such as Seasonite or Textrol.

During 2003 all timber treatment will be transferred to Tanalith® E.



Arbordeck components are manufactured from TANALISED® timber-the most renowned and effective pre-treated timber available. Components carry a 15 year performance guarantee against decay or insect attack.



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Arbordeck would like to thank **Distinctive Landscapes, design-a-decking, Timberscapes, Vinstrata** and **West Yorkshire Decking** for their assistance with the projects in this brochure.



A comprehensive video demonstrating the deck building process is available for £5.99 including postage. To order, please send a cheque payable to **Howarth (Timber Importers) Ltd** to:

Sales Department  
Arbordeck, Lincoln Castle  
Lincoln Castle Way, New Holland  
Barrow-Up-on-Humber, North Lincolnshire  
DN19 7RR

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.**