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ENGINEERED FOR THE OUTDOORS

INSTALLATION GUIDE

HOLLOW DECKING

HOLLOW DECKING INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Introduction

As with all instructions Saige Longlife Decking Ltd recommends that you read the installation guide in full prior to commencing installation of the decking.

Saige warranty will not be upheld if the Installation Guide is not followed properly.

Hollow or Solid Decking?

Our Solid and Hollow Decking are made in the same finish and dimensions to allow them to be mixed together on a project. This is particularly useful for decking areas that have steps or areas of high traffic. By mixing the boards together you can up-spec specific areas without compromising on the aesthetic look.

Solid decking is more suitable for sunken decking areas or decking areas with limited air flow. By using the solid decking board and increasing the left to right gap between boards to 5mm the solid decking would be more suitable than using the hollow boards which have a 2-3mm gap and could result in insufficient air flow. Recommended airflow should be achieved on at least 2 of the sides with an opening of at least 100mm clearance from ground level up on the 2 sides.

If you have any questions please contact a member of the Saige team for clarification.

Usage

Saige Longlife decking is for outdoor private and commercial use but should not be used for construction purposes. Saige Decking do not recommend having barbecues or firepits on the decking as it can be stained by the grease from the barbecue which is difficult to remove.

Storage

Saige Longlife decking is generally denser than natural wood. On site, it must be stored on a flat surface and must be supported by centres at miniumum 60cm intervals.

Storing on uneven surface might cause the boards to twist. The decking should be covered for long term storage.

Tools

No specialist tools are required when working with Saige composite decking board. But for the best results, we recommend using Circular saw blades 48-72 teeth preferably.

Dependent upon the sub frame you have selected, we recommend using M4 x 25 mm (minimum) Corrosion resistant Self-tapping screws as supplied within the fixing kit for use with our hidden fixing clips for timber, but if using our aluminium sub frame we recommend M4 x 16mm counytersunk screws. If using a power tool, we advise to adjust the tool so that the screws are not over tightened.

Decking Foundations

Please consult your structural engineer for design specifications for an appropriate sub floor for your structure.

Make sure the foundation is flat and stable in order to avoid deformation of the decking boards to prevent an uneven surface occurring and dents in the surface and of the terrace.

Always maintain the indicated mounting distance. The batons or joists must be spaced according to the maximum spacing's set out in the Span Chart on the next page.

Make sure that all joists are level and centred. Joists should be levelled to allow 8mm per metre fall. The decking must span at least three joists.

To protect the lifespan of the timber subframe Saige can provide non-butyl deck tape in 65mm and 130mm widths for single and double joists.

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Decking Span Chart

Model/Dimension	Application	Residential	Light Commercial	Deck installed At 45° to joists
Saige Contemporary & Traditional Hollow Decking	Decking	400mm	350mm	200mm
Saige Essentials Hollow Decking	Decking	350mm	Not advised	200mm

Installation on wooden joists (100mm x 50mm is recommended)

Preparation?

- Please ensure sufficient airflow is allowed for when planning your decking area. A minimum gap/clearance of 100mm should be allowed along a minimum of 2 sides.
- If using a hardwood support or tanalised joists (recommended minimum joist size 100mm x 50mm), we recommend pre-drilling holes for the screws. Saige Decking tape can be used for extra sub frame protection.
- To ensure proper drainage the deck should slope min 8mm/m.
- Place the treated wood joists on a durable bearing structure or tile. Fix the joists to the foundation.
- Place the joists a maximum of 400mm apart for Contemporary and Traditional hollow decking boards and 350mm for Essentials hollow boards..
- When the decking boards are placed diagonally on the joists, reduce the distance between the joists to a maximum of 200mm.

Installing the first Decking Board

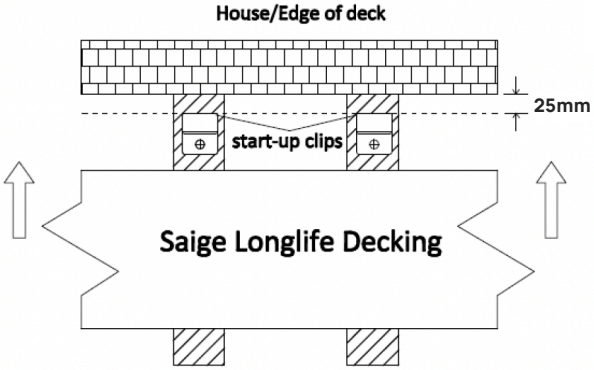
NEVER screw (or nail) through the hollow decking boards – the boards need the clip system to be able to allow for expansion and contraction.

Within the Fixing Kits there are 4 start-up clips, 44 hollow connecting clips and 4 one-sided clips. Install start-up clips on each joist 6mm outside the line of the deck (so that when the decking board is tapped into place it slots into the decking) and leaving a 25mm gap between the edge of the deck and the house (as per picture below) to avoid splitting the joist.

There should also be at least a 25mm gap if running the boards into or away from the house rather than running them left to right. This allows for airflow and helps reduce excessive expansion and contraction.

At this stage you should have decided whether to lay a solid board (as a picture frame effect) or if you wish to start off your decking with hollow boards. We would recommend a solid picture frame effect.

By picture framing with solid decking you are reducing the risk of damage to the outside edges of the decking area, while at the same time also hiding the cross section and grooves on the side of the board.



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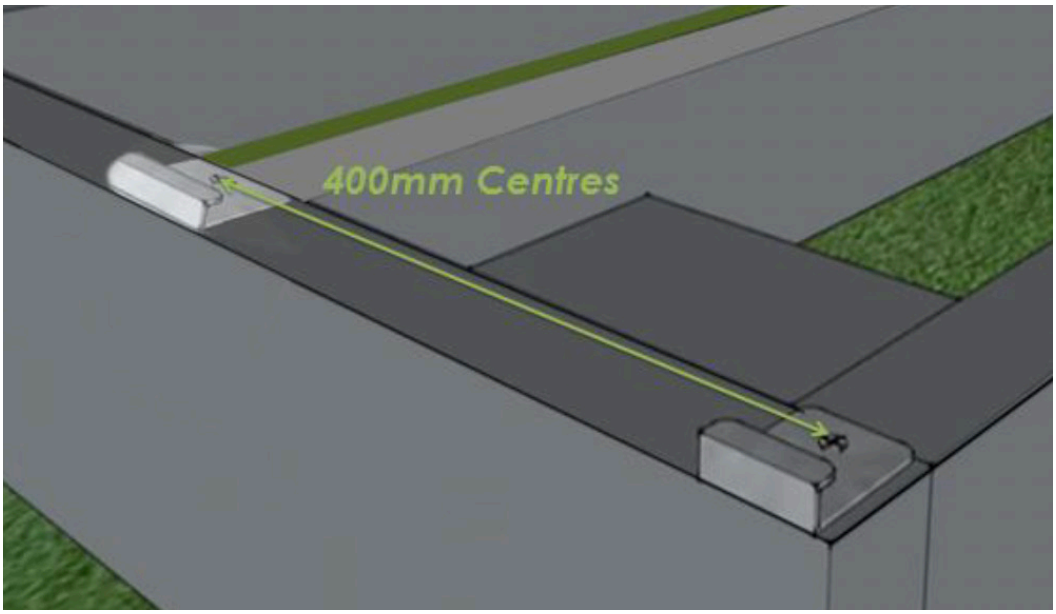
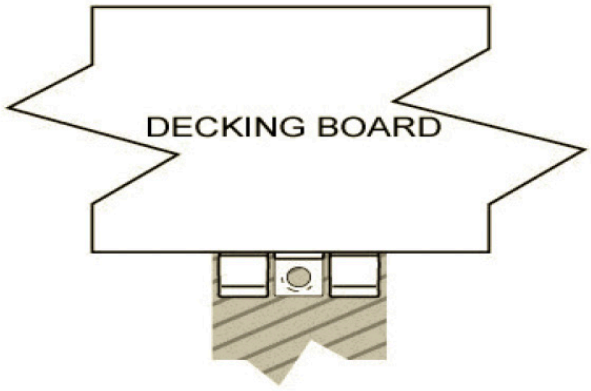
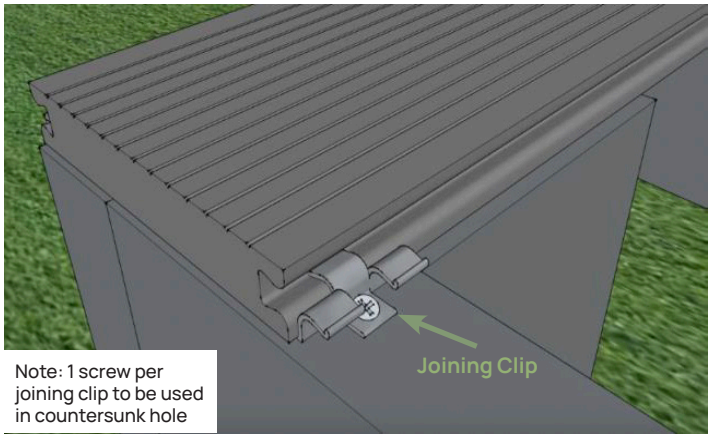
Hidden Fixing System

Boards should be fixed with clips on each bearer/joist. Clips should be fixed no further than 400mm apart (or 350mm for Essentials) down each side of the board. Clips should be fixed no less than 10mm in from the end of the boards (this will stop the boards falling off the clip, on contraction). Installation of hollow boards MUST use the fixing kits provided by Saige Longlife Decking and have installed as per these installation instructions to have a valid Saige warranty.

Ensure that the counter sunk section of the hidden clip is exposed as in the diagram below.







Note: 1 screw per joining clip to be used in countersunk hole

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Install Fasteners

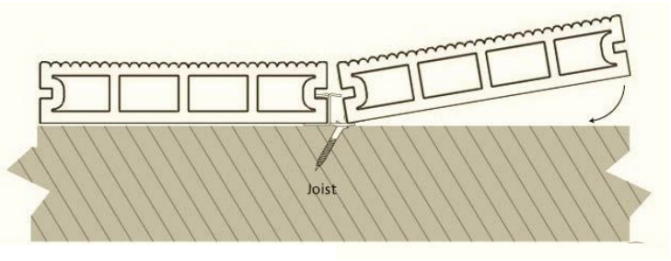
Install screws at 15° angle through the hidden clip and into the joist while applying side ward pressure on the decking to ensure that the tabs are hard up against the inside of the decking groove.

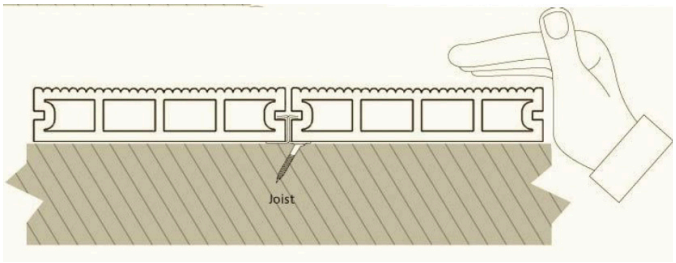
On the Hidden Fixing Clip the screw needs to be screwed into the hole with the countersunk (other 2 holes are only for manufacturing purposes). Install one hidden clip and screw on each joist.

Make sure the hidden clip is in full contact with the groove on the inside of the decking board and the screw is holding the hidden clip down tightly to the joist.

Complete Installation

Place the next plank into position against the hidden clip. Slightly raise the outer edge of the plank being installed and slide it onto the hidden clip as far as it will go (see below picture. Alight tap may be required!





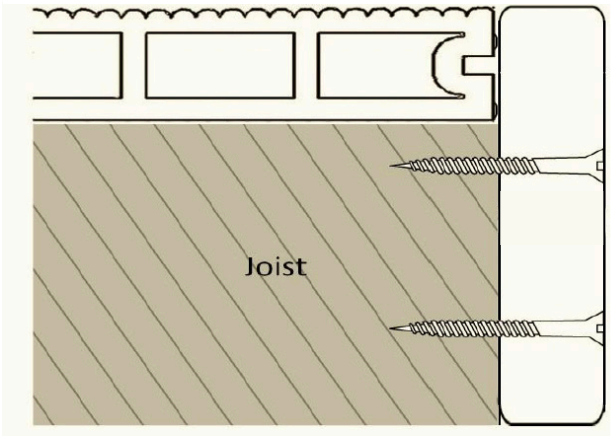
If you have purchased Saige Trim or Solid Boards

Installing Trim or Solid Decking Profile Boards (trim boards are 10mm x 70mm in 2.2m lengths)

The trim for solid decking boards can be used horizontally or vertically to create a clean finish at the grooved side of the hollow decking boards at the edge of a deck (see below picture – please note diagram is not to scale). Trim boards need to be fixed to the sub-frame (not to the hollow decking boards) every300-400mm.

Solid decking boards are available in the same colour and with a square edge profile as the hollow boards (143mm x 23mm x 3.6m) and can be used to create steps and give a more durable finish to the decking edge. Solid Decking is recommended over trims, particularly in areas where there will be regular traffic flow on and off the decking. This profile must be fixed with 65mm countersunk screws (preferably in the same colour). This must be predrilled before securing to the frame.

TRIM INSTALLATION IF NOT USING SOLID AS PICTURE FRAME



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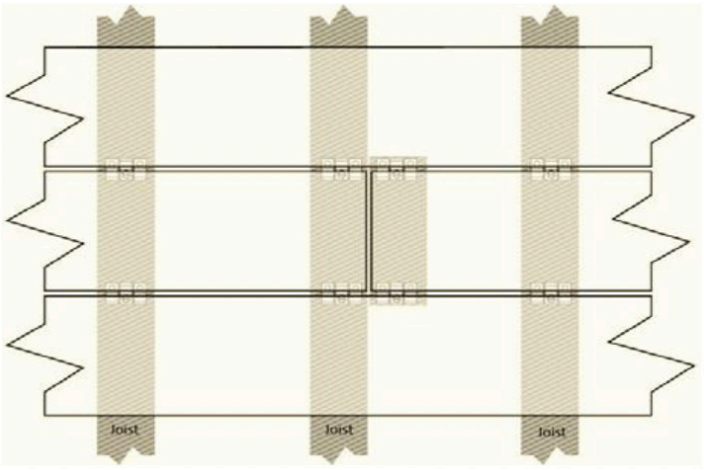
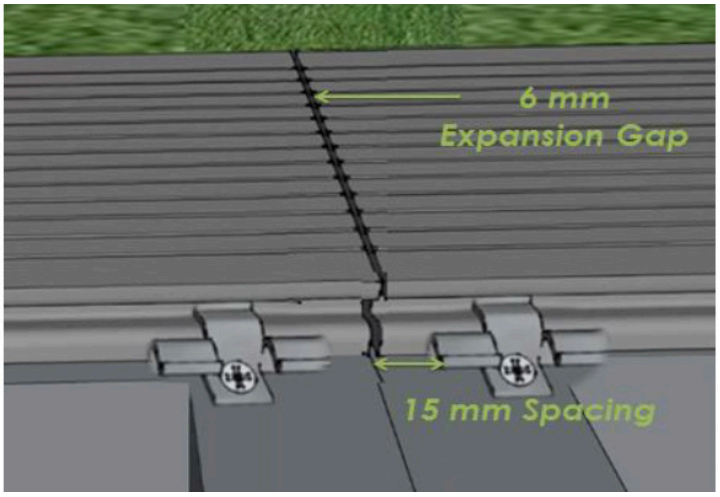
Proper Gapping

Gaps are needed both End-To-End (at the butt joint) and Side-To-Side. This allows for proper drainage and slight thermal expansion and contraction of the Saige boards.

All butt joints must sit on a doubled up joist. Install a second support joist as shown in picture below for proper attachment of the hidden clip. Where two boards are butted together clips should be placed at a distance no greater than 75mm in from the end of the board and no closer than 10mm from the end of the board (allowing for expansion and contraction).





For the first board, install to the joist as detailed above. For the second board, attach a second board on a second baton/joist – as above diagram.

NB: NEVER use one clip to join the ends of two boards – one clip must be fitted to joists at the end of each board as per the diagram above.

Expansion Gaps

Saige Decking is made from recycled plastic and recycled wood, it will expand and contract with changes in temperature, the ideal temperature condition for installing Saige Decking is around 15°C

Never install the ends of Saige decking immediately next to each other. Expansion gaps will depend on the temperature at which the boards are installed.

Finally…

Once the decking has been installed it should be cleaned of any landscaping/construction residue and any other debris that may have occurred during the install. Washing down during install, preferably with a jet wash, may also be needed to stop dirt being driven into the boards. For any additional installation advice please contact a member of the Saige Decking Team.

Install Temperature (Degrees Centigrade)	Expansion Gaps required (per 3.6m length)
5-10	6mm
11-15	5mm
16-20	4mm
21-25	3mm
26+	2mm

5. Recommendations for cleaning Saige composite decking, if it comes into contact with:

These are recommendations only – it is advised that you test any products being used on a small test area first.

5.1 Oil

- Remove the oil as soon as possible and clean with a degreasing agent. Rinse with water and soap.
- If stains have set into the material, as with wood, they are hard to remove. Fine sandpaper can be used, following the grain.

5.2 Rust

- Use water (and soap) and brush carefully with a scouring pad
- In case of heavy rust, use a cleanser containing lemon acid
- Rinse with water

5.3 Greasy Stains

- Remove grease immediately and clean with a degreasing agent or soap.
- If stains have set into the material, as with wood, they are hard to remove. Fine sandpaper can be used, following the grain alternatively using a wire brush can be helpful also.
- Rinse with warm water.

5.4 Wine/Fruit Stains

- Clean with a cleaning agent and water.
- In extreme cases a 60 degree hot jet-wash may be required.
- Rinse with water.

5.5 Scratches

- The decking can be scratched by dragging furniture across the deck (please take care if dragging anything across the decking)– we would recommend fitting soft felt type pads to the bottom of the chairs to minimise scratches.
- In case of small scratches that are not revitalised by a power washer you can use fine sandpaper or a light use of a wire brush following the direction of the board/wood grain.

5.6 General

- Normal maintenance of the decked area can be done by sweeping or scrubbing the decking, or by using a garden hose or high pressure cleaner.
- To avoid damage, make sure there is enough distance between the nozzle and Saige Longlife Decking. Test a small area first. Spray in the direction of the grain to avoid damage.
- As the decking is made of 50-60% wood it can become stained if it is not cleaned regularly of leaves, debris, berries, blossom and anything else that could rot or stain the decking. Particularly relevant where there are trees overhanging the decking.