



# Installation Guide

## TruDeck® Terrace System

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd take no responsibility for the installations that are not carried out in line with this installation guide. Failure to install in accordance with these guidelines will invalidate the product warranty.**

### Storage and product handling

TruDeck® should be stored under cover out of direct sunlight and protected from weather until ready to install. All decking should be stored either on wooden pallets or wooden bearers at approximately 500mm apart on clean flat surfaces. TruDeck® should be stacked on top of each other no higher than 3m (where 3 packs are delivered). TruDeck® should be removed carefully and lifted appropriately and not dragged as this can cause scratching. Do not slide boards over one another.

Equal weight distribution should be applied when moving boards / carrying boards from one end is not advised. The 'top' decking surface should be kept free from construction debris and materials to prevent damage to the decking boards.

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd will take no responsibility for issues that arise from poor storage or incorrect handling.**

### Safety and cutting

Personal protective equipment (PPE) should always be worn. When cutting and installing decking boards it is advised to wear gloves, protective eyewear and suitable clothing that will not get trapped or caught in cutting equipment. No specialist tools are required when working with TruDeck®. A simple hand saw, or general purpose chop saw will easily cut the material.

Please ensure ends of boards are checked before starting project. Due to the nature of the way these products are manufactured it is the installer's responsibility to check before installation that these are square and straight.

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd will take no responsibility for issues that arise from poor use of PPE or tools to cut TruDeck® Composite Decking.**

### Recommendations for cleaning and maintaining TruDeck®

In most circumstances when coffee, wine, oil, etc. is spilled this can be easily cleaned using a cloth and water. Tougher stains may require a jet wash. Where cleaning products are required, we recommend any citrus based cleaner which should remove stubborn stains and a jet wash to finish.

As TruDeck® is a wood based product it can become stained if left for long periods of time or if overhanging trees cover the decking. However, using a jet wash every 6-12 months will keep your decking looking in great condition for years to come.

Due to the nature of this material scratching may occur on the outer surface. If this does, a steel wool can be used to remove light scratches. We would recommend using this on a small area first or on an off cut to practice pressure to be applied to scratched area.

We would recommend that garden furniture is fitted with felt pads to help preserve the decking as best as possible and items are not dragged over the decking as this can cause irreversible scratches.

### Installation on timber substructure

It is recommended that composite decking is laid on a subframe with at least a 2% gradient. This will ensure that water can drain from the decking sufficiently.

It is recommended to install to joists at 400mm centres to comfortably support TruDeck®. This is a guide only and all projects should be assessed on an individual basis. The centres should be adjusted accordingly if heavy items such as hot tubs are to be installed. Joists should be fixed to a post which would be secured within a concrete foundation or similar.

**It is the installer's responsibility to provide a suitable subframe for the TruDeck® to be laid on.**

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd take no responsibility for failed subframes which can result in failure of the TruDeck® deck boards occurring.**

### Installation of TruDeck® Composite Decking - Starter Clips

Please use the clips that are provided with the TruDeck®. Different clips or other fixings systems are not permitted and can invalidate the warranty unless agreed prior to installation with a Falcon Panel Products representative. Starter clips are provided and should be used when first starting your decking. Screws are provided to secure these to the frame. These are used to secure the first board in place ensuring that a 20mm gap is left to allow for airflow. DO NOT screw hollow boards as these will expand and crack. If hollow boards are used for a 'picture frame' or surround, please use clips provided.

### Installation of TruDeck® Composite Decking - Metal Decking Clips

Ensure metal decking clips are installed on double joists when butting boards together.

The clips should be at least 15mm away from the end of the boards.

The clips should be installed every 400mm on the timber joists.

The decking clips should be part screwed to allow a second deck board to slide into place before securing the clip. DO NOT over tighten the clip as this could damage the deck board.

Replicate this process throughout to ensure the decking is laid using the simple clip system.

Where boards butt end to end a gap of 5mm should be kept allowing room for expansion. (Dependant on temperature).

The colder the weather the bigger the expansion gap should be. Composite decking boards expand most when the weather is at its warmest.

Temp 5-10°C    6mm gap recommended

Temp 11-25°C    5mm gap recommended

Temp 16-25°C +    3mm gap recommended

TruDeck® is made of wood powder and recycled plastic material and is subject to movement. The movement is determined by the temperature in the product. This means that darker decking could become hotter and retain heat longer. Sufficient airflow is recommended when laying composite decking ensuring that air can flow throughout the decking. This will help keep decking cool in warmer temperatures.

### Installation of TruDeck® Fascia Boards

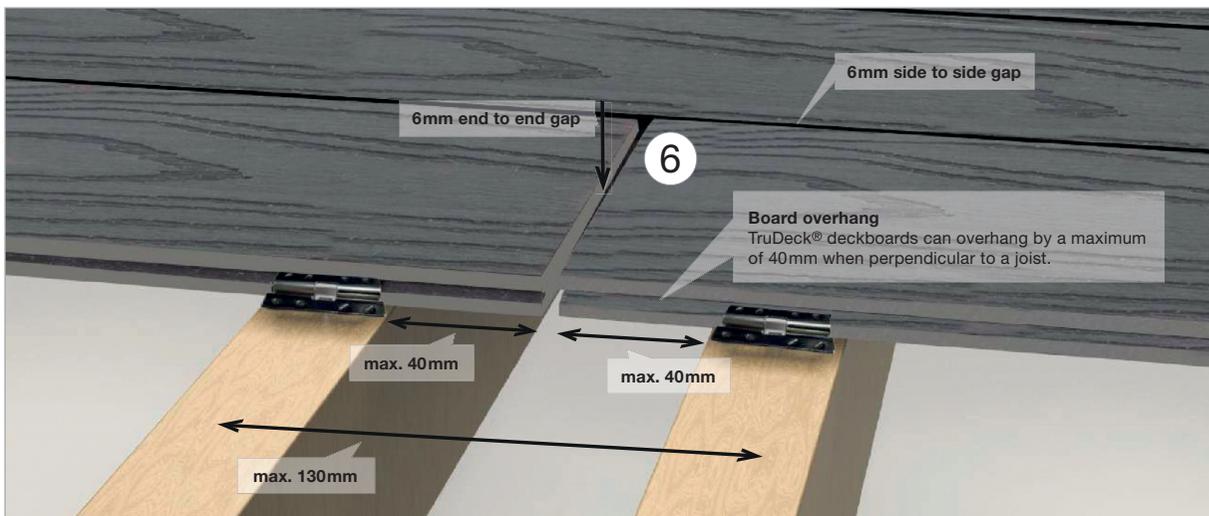
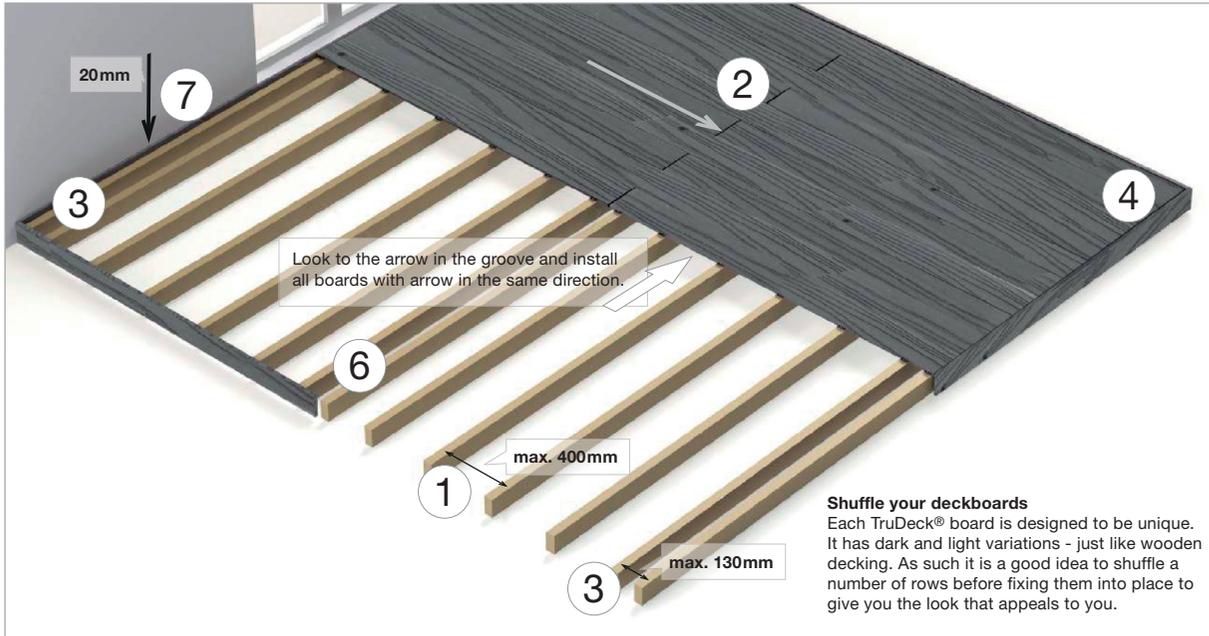
Fascia boards are supplied in the same colours as the TruDeck® decking and are 12mm x 140mm x 3600mm long. These CAN be screwed unlike the hollow decking. This is down to the structure of the material and the fact that they are solid not hollow.

Colour coded screws are provided to help ease of install. We advise pre-drilling a hole suitable for the screw before securing with colour headed screw.

25mm should be left where possible to help with air flow around the deck. Where this is not possible, soffit vents (not supplied) can be a good solution to help with airflow. A Falcon Panel Products representative can provide more information on airflow if required.

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd will take no responsibility for installation issues that arise where installer(s) have not followed the installation guide, resulting in the warranty being voided.**

**Falcon Panel Products Ltd will take no responsibility for scratching and / or poor maintenance of TruDeck® Composite Decking.**



### Subframe advice

- 1 Spacing should be no greater than 400mm joist centre to joist centre when the deckboard is perpendicular to the joists. If you are using softwood timber joists please ensure they are treated to Class 3 (when the joist is above ground contact) or Class 4 (if the joist is in ground contact). If in doubt please ask your timber supplier for advice.
- 2 We recommend using a gradient of 2 in 100 (2%) with deckboards running away from buildings. This helps water disperse and the gradient should fall away from any adjoining buildings. (Picture shows a fall away from building)
- 3 At the start and end of every deckboard please use two joists with a maximum joist centre of 130mm. (Picture shows double joist at start and end of every board)

### Fixing your deckboards

- 4 Before you begin check the ends of all deckboards to ensure they are square and trim if required.
- 5 Begin by fixing the starter clips into the subframe. Use one clip per deckboard per joist. Slide the first deckboard up to the starter/end clips.
- 6 Now take a secret fixing clip and screw this into the wooden joist. Do not tighten the clip at this stage. Take the next deckboard and slide it into the clips. Go back and tighten the screw into the secret fixing. Now repeat this process until you have completed your deck.
- 7 Butt joints are where two boards meet end to end. It is important the deckboards do not meet. The minimum gap between deckboards should be 8mm. When two deckboard ends meet please screw in an additional sister joist. This enables the use of one clip per deckboard, per joist. (Picture shows sister joist)
- 8 Abutting solid objects. When your deckboards are abutting a solid object, such as a wall, please employ a 20mm gap. When abutting fascia boards please employ a 10mm gap.

