BAM TECH
BAMBOO DECKING

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Practical guidance for a durable, well-ventilated BamTech bamboo deck

For BamTech Light Brown and Dark Brown exterior bamboo decking

Board size: 1850 × 137 × 20 mm

Before Installation

Before installation begins, ensure the site and substructure have been properly prepared.

- **Plan for drainage:** Water must be able to drain freely from beneath the deck. Avoid areas where standing water can collect.
- **Allow for ventilation:** Maintain at least **80 mm clearance beneath the decking** and a minimum **20 mm gap from walls and fixed obstacles** to encourage airflow.
- **Prepare a suitable sub-frame:** Use exterior-grade joists with a minimum size of **40 × 60 mm**.
- **Joist spacing:** For BamTech's **1850 × 137 × 20 mm boards**, joists should generally be positioned at approximately **462.5 mm centres**.
- **Check boards before laying:** Natural variation is part of the character of bamboo decking. Before fixing the boards, review the colour and grain across the batch and arrange the boards to achieve a balanced overall appearance.

Board Installation

BamTech decking may be fixed using a compatible concealed clip system or an appropriate screw-fixing method, depending on the installation and substructure.

During installation:

- Allow approximately 5–6 mm between neighbouring boards.
- Make sure all board ends have adequate support from the sub-frame.
- Select stainless-steel fixings suitable for exterior decking applications.
- Where screws are used, pre-drill fixing positions to help minimise stress on the bamboo.
- Check board positioning regularly to maintain even spacing and straight installation lines.
- Provide sufficient fall across the finished deck so that surface water can drain away effectively.

Cut Boards & Exposed Ends

BamTech boards are supplied with treated ends. Cutting a board exposes untreated bamboo at the new end, so this area requires protection before the board is fitted.

Apply a **suitable exterior-grade end sealer or wax to every newly cut end**, ensuring the exposed surface is adequately covered before installation.

Correct end treatment helps limit moisture entering or leaving the bamboo through exposed end grain.

Professional Installation Recommended

Every deck and site is different. Substructure design, drainage, elevation, coastal exposure and surrounding structures can all influence an installation.

For best results, BamTech Bamboo Decking should be installed by an experienced decking professional. The installer should consider the specific site conditions and ensure that the substructure, drainage, ventilation and fixing method are suitable for the application.

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CARE & MAINTENANCE

A practical guide for keeping BamTech bamboo decking looking its best outdoors

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Board size: 1850 × 137 × 20 mm

Natural Weathering

Like other natural exterior materials, BamTech bamboo will gradually change in appearance as it is exposed to sunlight and outdoor conditions.

Over time, the original brown colouring will soften and lighten. If the surface is allowed to weather without colour-maintenance treatments, it will progressively develop a more muted, naturally weathered appearance.

Small surface checks, fine cracks and subtle changes in texture may develop during outdoor exposure. These are natural characteristics associated with the material responding to changing environmental conditions.

If you prefer to maintain a richer brown finish, use a suitable water-based penetrating oil formulated for exterior decking.

First Maintenance Check

Inspect the deck approximately **4–8 weeks after installation**. At this stage, assess the condition and appearance of the surface and apply an appropriate maintenance treatment if needed.

Early inspection gives you an opportunity to address the surface as the decking begins its initial period of outdoor exposure.

Routine Cleaning

Regular cleaning helps prevent dirt and organic debris from building up on the surface. Sweep the deck as needed and remove leaves, soil and other debris, particularly from areas where moisture may collect.

When a more thorough clean is required:

Begin by wetting the decking with clean water. Use an exterior cleaner suitable for bamboo or timber decking, following the cleaner manufacturer's dilution and application instructions.

Work the cleaner into the surface with an appropriate stiff nylon or silicon-carbide brush, cleaning **in the direction of the bamboo grain**. Once the surface is clean, rinse thoroughly to remove loosened dirt and cleaning residue.

Leave the decking to dry completely before applying oil or any other surface treatment.

Avoid aggressive pressure washing, as excessive pressure can roughen or damage the bamboo surface.

Refreshing the Surface Finish

Once the deck is clean and fully dry, an exterior water-based decking oil suitable for bamboo may be used to refresh the colour and provide additional surface protection.

Always follow the application and coverage instructions supplied by the chosen oil manufacturer. Apply the product evenly and avoid leaving pools of excess oil on the boards or within grooves and joints.

Allow the treatment to dry and cure for the period specified by the oil manufacturer before the deck is exposed to moisture or returned to normal use.

When Does My Deck Need Maintenance?

There is no single maintenance schedule that suits every outdoor deck. As a general guide, inspect the decking throughout the year and expect surface maintenance to be required approximately once or twice annually, depending on its environment and use.

Factors that can affect maintenance frequency include:

- exposure to direct sunlight and UV;
- rainfall and humidity;
- coastal or salt-air conditions;
- proximity to swimming pools; and
- the amount of foot traffic the deck receives.

Decks in particularly exposed environments may need attention more frequently. The condition and appearance of the surface should ultimately guide when maintenance is carried out.

Stains, Marks & Heavier Weathering

Clean spills and marks promptly to reduce the chance of staining.

Where a section of decking has become noticeably rough or heavily weathered, light sanding may be appropriate before refinishing. **Always work with the direction of the bamboo grain,** remove all sanding residue and ensure the surface is clean and dry before applying a suitable finishing treatment.

Simple Care. Long-Lasting Beauty

A little regular attention goes a long way.

Keep your deck clean, allow it to breathe and drain properly, inspect it periodically and maintain the surface when required. These simple steps will help your BamTech deck age beautifully while retaining the natural character that makes bamboo unique.