

## Smartdeck Thermory Decking Install Guide

Make sure to read the whole document before beginning install.

Smartdeck stocks Thermory ash decking in one profile – 20 x 132mm, brushed one side with stainless steel (T6) fasteners. Other profiles are available by special order.

All decking is milled with **end-match joints** and can interlock mid span, removing the need to measure and dock ends at every join. Thermory ash decking is equivalent to Class 1 timbers in durability, reasonably resistant to termites (but requires standard termite prevention measures in Australia), and remains very stable due to a decreased capacity to absorb moisture.

**NOTE: All Thermory decking comes factory brushed on 1 x face and should be installed with the brushed side facing up.** The factory brushing removes mill glaze and cutting blade chatter marks and creates a textured surface. This textured surface allows for faster penetration of CUTEK oils and greater colour build when using the CUTEK Colourtones.

Thermory is 100% solid timber and can be drilled, cut, sanded and worked as per normal hardwood material. Use sharp blades and drill bits to reduce the potential for chipping and splitting of the timber.

**NOTE:** Pre-drilling and countersinking is necessary if fixing nails or screws directly into Thermory timbers to minimise the potential for splitting.

Maximum joist spacing of 450mm centers on timber or steel joists. Recommended joist spacing is 400mm for commercial projects.

### Tools required

- Screw gun with appropriate bits
- Drill with countersink bit, eg 'Smartbit'
- Drop saw, or circular saw or hand saw with guide
- Rubber mallet
- Penetrating oil (Cutek® Extreme recommended) and brush

We **DO NOT** recommend the use of any water-based deck coating product due to a high potential for peeling and flaking over time, or any oils which are based on natural vegetable oils as these are a source of food for mould and fungi.

## Best practice:

**Check** all boards before install and put aside any boards that are damaged or defective.

**DO NOT INSTALL DAMAGED BOARDS. Contact Smartdeck straight away for technical assistance or replacement if necessary.** Boards that only have partial damage can often be used towards the end of a job as short lengths and last placement boards often require ripping down into a narrow width to fit. All decking comes with 1 x brushed face which should be installed facing up – the smooth face will be the B side, and may have mill marks or shakes. If any ends are damaged or checked, they can be docked and used as starter boards. Two of these cut joins can be installed directly over a joist using the Senofix clips.

## For best results.

**Pre-oil** all boards on all sides before install, using Cutek® Extreme clear. Coat every cut end thoroughly with Cutek® Extreme. Apply a second coat to the top surface after install.

A pre-coating service is available if required.

Joist spacing maximum 450 centres.

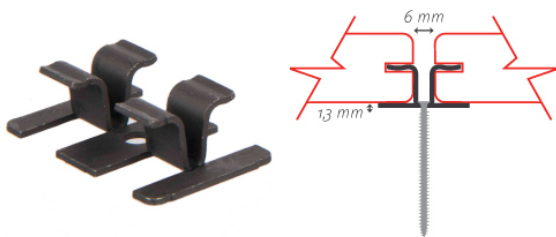
Area needs to be well draining, with at least 100mm spacing between ground and decking.

Use standard termite protection measures.

If top-fixing to timber joists, install a joist strip such as Grace Deck Protector before installing boards.

Pre-drill and countersink if top-fixing. Stainless steel 7 or 8 gauge 40–50mm trim head screws are recommended, a minimum of 20mm from the edge.

If using T6 clips, 1 timber screw for each stainless steel clip is provided. The first board needs to be top-fixed along the leading edge, with a spacer below to match the clip spacing between joist and substructure.



With the T6 clips, tap a clip into the groove in the side of the first board with a rubber mallet or hammer at every joist, then screw off with the provided stainless steel screws. Tap the next board into the clips with a rubber mallet to give a 6mm spacing, then insert clips at each joist and continue. Screwing the clips down can be done very quickly, saving considerable time. On completion, ensure the deck is clean and dry then apply another coat of oil to the surface.

### **Board spacing, moisture and ventilation**

Thermory decking is factory milled for use with fixing systems which don't require top fixing by nails or screws. The 112mm wide board will have a 4mm gap and the 132mm wide board has a 6mm gap between edges to provide adequate ventilation. Top fixing of Thermory decking can be carried out using 7 or 8 gauge trim head screws, after pre-drilling and countersinking. Pre-drilling is needed in order to avoid cracking.

### **Site layout considerations**

In damper climates and low to the ground install, the under deck space must be designed to ensure water can drain to allow the ground to dry out quickly. If in doubt, please contact our technical department for further consultation, as there may be circumstances where we would not recommend installing any timber material.

### **Maintenance and ongoing care**

For best long term performance and simple ongoing care, we recommend pre-oiling Thermory timbers on all sides of the board **prior to install** using Cutek<sup>®</sup> Extreme which is a commercial grade stabilising oil. Boards can be easily pre-oiled, wet stacked and set aside ready for install. Wood scientists agree that timbers coated with oil on all sides prior to install offer better protection long term, increasing the service life of the timber.

It is standard practice that timber decks are cleaned and coated after install which will protect and enhance the look of the grain.

### **What to expect**

While Thermory is a high performance timber and very stable, it is still a natural material and will be subject to weathering over time which includes lightening, fading and eventual silvering. This process will take place much faster in full direct weather exposed settings. Many customers desire silvered timbers which can look natural and beautiful, but for those wanting to reduce the potential for silvering, we recommend ongoing care with Cutek<sup>®</sup> Extreme in clear or with an added Colourtone. Using just the clear oil alone will allow the wood to naturally lighten to a natural hue and silvering will be significantly delayed. The natural look of Thermory can easily be restored with a simple clean and further coat of Cutek<sup>®</sup> Extreme clear oil. Where maintenance of the rich dark tone of Thermory ash is desirable, use of a Colourtone (Chestnut) is recommended. The added pigment will enhance the natural Thermory colour for longer, and ongoing care is a simple clean and further application as required (generally twice in the first year, in full exposure, and then annually).

Being a natural material, some degree of surface checking should also be expected. Cutek<sup>®</sup> Extreme will minimise checking and end splitting, while increasing the life of the wood. We want all our customers to have a great experience using these beautiful timbers, including easy maintenance that provides long term protection.

**NOTE:** Decking surfaces that are installed in full weather exposure and receive a high amount of foot traffic will require more ongoing care if trying to maintain the rich dark look of the Ash.

Protected areas where less UV light, rain and traffic occur will retain their tone for much longer so far less care will be required.

**Low Maintenance option:** Using Cutek® Extreme as clear oil only represents the most cost effective and low care option for Thermory timbers long term. The clear oil will allow the Thermory to lighten and eventually silver but the protection that Cutek® Extreme provides is still present regardless of the natural silvering of the timber.

**Maintaining colour with a CUTEK Colourtone:**

Chestnut is recommended for Thermory ash.

Decking should ideally receive 2 x coats with added Colourtone after install. Clean and recoat as required to maintain the desired tone. A simple broom and soapy water clean followed by one coat is all that is required for ongoing care, if done annually.

**Damaged or defective boards**

The overall quality of Thermory timbers is outstanding but from time to time there may be a few boards that are damaged. Please DO NOT install these boards but rather place them aside and contact Smartdeck for technical assistance or replacement if necessary.

**Contact**

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