



lay a deck

Why not have a go at building your own deck this weekend?...

...soon after, you can sit back and **enjoy the fruits** of your own labour with a great family barbeque!



To ensure your project runs smoothly, its best to plan in advance and assemble all the tools and materials you need before you start work...

#### Tools you may require;

- \*drill
- \*handsaw or powersaw
- \*spirit level
- \*set square
- \*screwdriver
- \*spade
- \*tape measure
- \*gloves

#### Materials required;

- \*ballast
- \*cement
- \*sharp sand
- \*wood joists
- \*decking boards
- \*countersunk screws
- \*weed membrane
- \*Timber preservative

You can find everything you need for your project at Allscape Landscape Centre.

#### Follow these five easy steps;

- 1.** Using a scaled plan of your deck, mark out its position and clear site of all vegetation. Level and compact the surface. If the area has an existing hard surface like concrete or slabs, these can remain under the deck.
- 2.** If your going to use new concrete pads, dig out square holes 300mmx300mmx450mm deep (12"x12"x18" deep) and fill with concrete. Old paving slabs may also be used, but for the most solid deck, new concrete pads are recommended. Space your support bars no more than 1800mm or 72" apart in the fresh concrete.
- 3.** Once your support posts have set, lay your network of joists on top of these. Checking they are level with each other (following the required slope) using a spirit level as you go. To ensure the structure can support each deck board adequately, space each joist boards approximately 400mm or 16" apart.
- 4.** Lay out the decking boards at right angles to the joists. Check at this stage that the joists done not sag or bow under your weight. If necessary add cross supports for the joists. Once you are happy and have cut any boards slightly oversize to fit, you can then start to secure the boards to the joists.
- 5.** Try to maintain constant gaps between decking boards by using a spacer. Stagger the joints so no continuous break occurs across the decking. Use galvanised nails or countersunk screws to secure each board in place using at least two in each joist position.

