

ABSOLUTE LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS

GET YOUR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING AREA READY FOR SUMMER

A practical guide to choosing and building the right timber deck

DESIGN | ENGINEERING | CONSENTS | CONSTRUCTION

021 067 1694 • www.absolutelandscaping.co.nz

The right deck starts with the right decisions

When summer arrives, some of the best moments happen outdoors - long lunches with friends, relaxed family barbecues and warm evenings spent enjoying the garden. A well-designed deck creates a natural extension of your home and gives you a practical, inviting place for entertaining, dining and relaxing.

But a great deck is about much more than attractive boards. The timber, layout, structure, drainage, safety requirements and quality of construction all affect how it will look, perform and last.

Choosing your decking timber



TREATED PINE

PRACTICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE

A versatile, affordable option that can be stained in many tones. Correct treatment, spacing, fixings and maintenance are especially important.



KWILA

RICH COLOUR AND DURABILITY

A dense premium hardwood suited to busy decks. New boards may release tannins, so preparation matters. Ask about responsibly sourced timber.



VITEX

LIGHT, CLEAN HARDWOOD

A golden or creamy-brown hardwood with a smooth contemporary finish. Regular cleaning and oiling help retain its original colour.



GARAPA

GOLDEN AND HARD-WEARING

A durable hardwood with warm honey colouring and a fine grain. It offers a lighter alternative to the deeper tones of kwila.



PURPLEHEART

DISTINCTIVE PREMIUM HARDWOOD

Known for its deep brown-purple colouring, density and strength. It creates a bold finish and needs careful installation with suitable fixings.



MACROCARPA

NATURALLY WARM CHARACTER

A locally familiar softwood with attractive grain and colour. Grade, detailing, exposure and maintenance should be carefully considered for decking use.

There is no single 'best' timber. We help clients balance upfront cost, appearance, maintenance and expected lifespan.

Good deck design starts below the boards



The decking boards are the part everyone sees, but the structure beneath them is what makes the deck safe, solid and durable. Foundations, piles, bearers, joists, connections and bracing must all suit the site and design. Timber treatment, compatible fixings, drainage and ventilation are also critical - particularly in exposed or coastal locations.

What makes a deck last

1 DECKING BOARDS

Correct gaps, board orientation and finish

2 JOISTS

Sized and spaced for the selected decking

3 BEARERS + CONNECTIONS

Load path, bracing and corrosion-compatible fixings

4 PILES + FOOTINGS

Designed for ground conditions, loads and exposure

NZS 3604, the Building Code and consent

Clients sometimes hear that a low deck does not need building consent and assume it can be built in any way. That is not the case. Building work must comply with the New Zealand Building Code whether or not consent is required.

NZS 3604 is the standard commonly used for timber-framed buildings and decks within its scope, including suitable sites with 'good ground'. It addresses structural matters such as footing and pile requirements, spans, member sizes, connections, fixings and bracing. If a deck falls outside its scope because of its design, ground conditions or complexity, specific engineering may be required.

1.5 m

A deck is generally exempt from building consent when the maximum possible fall is no more than 1.5 metres.

1.0 m

A safety barrier is generally required where it is possible to fall 1 metre or more.

NO CONSENT?

The Building Code and local planning rules still apply. Resource consent may sometimes be needed.

A simple project pathway

01**SITE CHECK**

Levels, ground, boundaries

02**DESIGN**

Layout, timber, structure

03**APPROVALS**

Engineer and council if needed

04**BUILD**

Construction and inspections

05**ENJOY**

A finished outdoor deck

Important: Local planning controls can include boundary setbacks, site coverage, height-to-boundary rules and other district-plan requirements. Every property and design should be checked before construction begins.

From first ideas to the finished build

If your deck requires engineering or consent, Absolute Landscaping Solutions can help take the uncertainty out of the process. We can coordinate the people and information required, manage the build and keep the project moving through the necessary stages.

1

DESIGN GUIDANCE

Timber selection, layout, access, steps, balustrades and integration with your home and garden.

2

ENGINEERING

Coordination with engineers and other design professionals for plans and calculations where required.

3

COUNCIL PROCESS

Assistance taking the project through building consent and navigating relevant planning requirements.

4

CONSTRUCTION

A properly planned build carried out to the approved design and appropriate New Zealand requirements.

5

INSPECTIONS

Coordination of required council inspections and practical follow-through to completion.

PLAN EARLY FOR SUMMER

Ready to create an outdoor area that looks right, works well and is built properly?
021 067 1694

www.absolutelandscaping.co.nz

SERVICING AUCKLAND'S NORTH SHORE, RODNEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

General consent information is provided as a guide only. Requirements depend on the property, final design and applicable council planning controls.