

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW DECK

Raised your standard of outdoor living with these
DIY projects to transform your landscape

Entertaining hub, book nook, lush and leafy retreat... a timber deck can be all these and more by way of elbow grease and helping hands at the ready. Throw in raised garden beds, new plants, fresh edging and statement trees and you'll take your yard from insipid to inviting!



PROJECT 4
Banish nosy neighbours
with a privacy screen.



PROJECT 1
A furnished deck is
a haven for relaxation.



PROJECT 2
Reach new heights with
a raised garden bed.



PROJECT 3
Create a circle of life
with statement edging.



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STEP 1



STEP 6

PROJECT 1 BUILD A RAISED DECK

The warmth of merbau anchors a garden centrepiece you can furnish with flexibility and style.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine
- 90 x 90mm H4 pine
- 140 x 19mm merbau pre-oiled decking

You'll also need

Tape measure; pencil; mitre saw; 75 x 3.75mm bullet head galvanised nails; nail gun; rafter square; set-out paint; shovel or post-hole digger; chisel; hammer; drill; 5mm bit; 75mm galvanised batten screws; spirit level; clamps; quick-set concrete; countersinking drill bit; 40mm stainless-steel decking screws; chalkline; 4mm plastic decking spacers; track saw

For you to note

For this site, the raised deck measured 5.2W x 2.6mD x 600mmH. The steps measured 850mm square.

Here's how

STEP 1 Decide on the area where your raised deck will be located to work out its width, depth and height. This visualisation of the frame (as shown) will help calculate the amount of materials needed.

STEP 2 Using mitre saw, cut a 1.3m header and base plate from 90 x 45mm timber. Cut four 1.2m joists from 90 x 45mm timber for spacing of 370mm between each one. Using galvanised 75mm bullet head nails, nail frame together, using rafter square to keep it square.

STEP 3 Repeat Step 2 to make the required frames for the dimensions of your raised deck, here 8 frames.

STEP 4 To build steps, cut two 850mm lengths of 90 x 45mm

timber and cut three 760mm lengths for joists. Nail these together with galvanised 75mm bullet head nails, with spacing between of 357mm. Again, use a rafter to square.

STEP 5 Marking the area for your deck with set-out paint, mark the positions of the post holes. You will need a post at each corner of your first frame. Then 2 for each of the other frames, for a total of 18 posts for the deck. Dig 400D x 200mmW holes for each post using a shovel or post-hole digger.

STEP 6 Cut posts to length from 90 x 90mm timber so at least 400mm sit in the post holes but they are 50mm short of the bottom. Cut rebates in the post tops using mitre saw. Make rebates 90mm high and 45mm deep. Smooth rebate with hammer and chisel.

STEP 7 Position your first frame over the first 4 post holes, placing the posts against frame to suit



STEP 7



STEP 10



STEP 12



STEP 13



STEP 15

your spacings. Predrill using 5mm bit and screw together with 75mm batten screws. Check the level and adjust as required. Use at least 3 screws per post.

STEP 8 For the next frame, clamp it into position alongside the first frame and screw temporary framing timber props to support it, using 75mm batten screws. Check it is level with the first frame and screw together using 75mm batten screws. Position and screw in a post to the left and right corners. This will be repeated for the other frames so that when 4 frames are joined there will be 10 posts supporting these 4 joined frames and they will be fastened to each other using the 75mm batten screws.

STEP 9 Check levels again and make any adjustments before concreting posts into position using quick-set concrete. Allow to set.

STEP 10 Repeat Steps 8 and 9 for the other 4 frames, ensuring they are all level and secured to each other. Fix post to the inside corner of each frame and concrete these in as well, for a total of 18 posts supporting joined frames.

STEP 11 Position the first step against the frame in the position you want and clamp it in place. Ensure it is level and use temporary props to support it. Screw into frame with 75mm batten screws.

STEP 12 Position and support the remaining steps, maintaining a minimum 140mm drop between each step. Prepare supporting 90 x 90mm posts with rebates. Fix these to steps using 75mm batten screws and cement posts like rest of the deck.

STEP 13 Screw first row of decking board to the deck flush with the end. Predrill using countersinking drill bit, then screw board to deck using 40mm decking screws. Use 2 screws per joist. Join boards over a joist where needed.

STEP 14 Cut more boards and fit them beside those already laid, overhanging them off ends of the deck. To make sure screws are straight, stretch a chalkline between the screws on the boards fixed and flick to mark the line. Use 4mm plastic spacers between boards to make gaps between



STEP 17

them even, then predrill and screw boards to joists along drawn line.

STEP 15 Follow process from Step 14 to continue fixing boards all the way across deck. Use track saw to cut off boards overhanging ends flush with ends of joists. If you don't have a track saw, use a circular saw and a straightedge to act as a guide for it.

STEP 16 Attach decking boards horizontally along the sides of the deck to hide the framing.

STEP 17 Lay decking and face boards (along the sides) on the steps. Start with the top step so you can notch the boards on the bottom step to run around the top. Cut overhanging decking on the steps with same process as used for the deck.

STEP 18 When finished, sweep up dirt, sawdust and any other marks.

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With its durability, resilience and beautiful rich colouring, merbau timber is an ideal material for decks
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Gather your supplies

- 200 x 50mm x 2.4m H4 treated pine sleepers (9)
- Exterior acrylic paint in chosen colour
- Geotextile fabric
 - Potting mix
- Selection of plants

You'll also need

Rake; paint roller and tray; mitre saw; tape measure; drill; 16mm drill bit; 16G x 75mm galvanised bugle head batten screws; clamps; spirit level; utility knife

PROJECT 2 BUILD A RAISED BED

Turn timber sleepers into oversized planters to go alongside your raised deck.

For you to note

This raised garden bed is 3300W x 400H x 1100mmD. You can adapt the size to suit your site.

Here's how

STEP 1 Clear the area for the raised garden bed using a rake.

STEP 2 Apply 2 coats of exterior paint to sleepers with a roller, allowing to dry after each coat.

STEP 3 Cut 4 sleepers into eight 900mm lengths using mitre saw.



Cut eight 450mm lengths from offcuts and another sleeper. Lay out 2 full sleepers and two 900mm lengths side by side and staggered.

STEP 4 Position one 450mm length across each joint and secure braces with eight 75mm batten screws to make a 3300mm wide box front. Repeat to make box back.

STEP 5 Cut 2 sleepers into four 1100mm lengths and butt 2 against one end of box front and clamp to hold. Position a brace over inside of the joint and screw through front into brace and side pieces with eight 75mm batten screws, and through side into brace with eight 75mm batten screws. Repeat to attach other side to box front, using spirit level to check for level.

STEP 6 Position box back against sides, clamp and screw to internal corner braces as for the box front.



STEP 7 Move raised planter bed into position, paint visible brace edges and let dry.

STEP 8 Line with geotextile fabric, trimming to fit. Fill bed with potting mix and plant up. Water in well.



GREEN IT UP

Deck out your DIY creations with plants that are low maintenance and soften all those hard edges.



Use native wisteria (*Hardenbergia* sp) as a spiller or climber.



Plant *Rhaphiolepis* 'Snow Maiden' for scented white summer flowers.



Add atmosphere with the grey and white foliage of *Westringia* 'Smokey'.



Lomandra ornamental grass gives an elegant vertical aspect.



PROJECT 3 **INSTALL RINGS AND EDGING**

Create a curvy garden bed around your raised deck with rust-look edging and tree rings.

Gather your supplies

- 1180 x 45mm Oxy-Shield flexible garden edging
- 150 x 9mm galvanised decking spikes
- 500mm Oxy-Shield podium landscape ring
- Potting mix or garden soil
 - Tree to suit your climate

You'll also need

Tape measure; garden hose or flexible piping; set-out paint; spade; tamper tool; hammer; weed mat; screwdriver

For you to note

This edging can be used on lawn or a hard surface.

Here's how

STEP 1 Measure and lay out new bed using a garden hose

or flexible piping, then mark line with set-out paint.
STEP 2 Using a spade, excavate the area to the depth of the edging and clear it of any rocks or debris. Tamp down the soil.
STEP 3 Lay garden edging in position, locking together using the tabs provided to form a continuous length.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

STEP 4 Hammer decking spikes into the ground on inside of edging at intervals of 500mm to secure it in place.

STEP 5 Lay weed mat over soil. Position 2 pieces of landscape ring for tree opposite each other.

STEP 6 Push one ring half into clips of the other, using a screwdriver to help.

STEP 7 Fill base of tree ring with potting mix or soil, position tree, backfill and water in well.



PROJECT 4 **INSTALL A SLATTED SCREEN**

Boost privacy on your raised deck and give it a garden room feel with a simple screen made from painted timber slats.

Gather your supplies

- 42 x 42mm x 5.4m H3 FJ primed LOSP (22)
- Black exterior paint
- 12mm x 1.5m copper pipes (2)
- 140 x 19mm merbau decking

You'll also need

Saw; drill; 13mm spade bit; paint roller and tray; 19mm timber spacers; clamps; hacksaw; black 32mm button head tech screws; 40mm timber screws; 75mm galvanised screws

For you to note

This screen is 2.6W x 2.7mH and was built from 43 lengths of 42 x 42mm timber. You can adapt the dimensions to suit your space, allowing for 19mm spacing between each vertical slat.

Here's how

STEP 1 Cut 5.4m pine lengths in half using a saw. Drill a centred hole 300mm from the top of each 2.7m slat all the way through using 13mm spade bit.

STEP 2 Using paint roller, apply 2 coats exterior paint to all faces

of timber, including cut edges, to seal. Leave to dry after each coat.

STEP 3 Lay slats flat with drilled holes at top facing in, spacers in between and end slats clamped.

STEP 4 Slowly feed a copper pipe from each end through holes in each slat until they meet. Cut off excess at ends with hacksaw. Screw through each slat into copper piping using black 32mm button head tech screws.

STEP 5 Clamp a 2.6m length of 140 x 19mm merbau to base of slats at front of screen and secure into each slat using 40mm timber screws. This cross rail adds stability and holds screen flush against deck bearer.

STEP 6 With helpers, lift up screen into position. Screw each slat to deck bearer with two 75mm screws spaced at least 100mm apart. Remove spacers. Screw through slats and cross rail into posts with 75mm screws.



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6



A slatted screen gives privacy and retains air flow



Stockists

Project supplies Bunnings 90 x 45mm L/M outdoor framing MGP10 H3 treated pine, \$8.47/m. 90 x 90mm x 2.4m Post F7 H4 treated pine premium KD, \$62/length. 42 x 42mm x 5.4m baluster handrail H3 pink pine FJ primed LOSP, \$45.15. Buildex 16G x 75mm galvanised bugle head rapid drive batten screws, \$102/pk500. Bastion 20kg Quik set concrete, \$8.12. Bastion 20kg mortar mix, \$8.96. 140 x 19mm L/M decking merbau SpecRite Pre Oiled KD Select, \$11.25/m. Zenith 8G x 40mm stainless steel Type 17 countersunk rib head decking screws, \$70.40/pk500. Maxisim 4mm spacer decking yellow, \$11.20/pk100. Hume 42 x 42mm x 2.7m moulding H3 pine primed E4E LOSP, \$24.30. Kembla 1/2in x 1.5m copper straight length, \$19.70. Otter 8g x 32mm matt black button head screws, \$10.44/pk135. 200 x 50mm x 2.4m treated pine sleeper H4, \$17.15. Dulux 1L Exterior Paint Weathershield Low Sheen Black, \$59.50. Whites 500mm Oxy-Shield Podium Landscape Ring, \$105. Whites 1180 x 45mm Outdoor Oxy-Shield Flexible Garden Edging, \$25.50 per length. Paslode 150 x 9mm Galvanised Decking Spike, \$2.35. 20kg bag of White Brickies Sand, \$10.60. Paslode 75 x 3.75mm 500g galvanised bullet head nails, \$8.95/pk65. Srol 4 x 5m SureTex geotextile fabric, \$39.99. Paslode 40 x 2.5mm 500g galvanised flat head nails, \$9.90/pk255. Zenith 8-10 x 40mm galvanised countersunk rib head timber screws, \$9.29/pk100. ■

