



URBAN
DECKING

THE ULTIMATE DECKING GUIDE

Decking. Pergolas. Outdoor Living.
An intimate guide to help you understand decking and
how it can suit your lifestyle.



“LOOK DEEP INTO
NATURE, AND
THEN YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING
BETTER.”

- Albert Einstein





THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM

Australia's obsession with the great outdoors is an ongoing love affair that has worked its way into our homes. Whether its a larger space that can entertain the whole family or its a small private little sanctuary, decks and pergolas are here to stay and only getting better with innovative design.

We at ,Urban Decking, live and breathe decks and pergolas and believe that it is a necessity for every home. In a technology driven world an outdoor living space provides a connection to the outdoors within your own personal space that can be enjoyed, independently or with your friends and family.

This guide is an intimate look into all the intricate details that are required to create your dream outdoor living space to suit your lifestyle.



HOW TO PLAN YOUR DECKING WORKS

Investing in any building works is a big decision as it can impact your home for years to come and with so many companies to choose from it can sometimes make the decision difficult. Now that your considering to invest in a deck it's important to consider key factors of a potential deck builder that could impact the build and quality of the finished product.



Design

Its important to have a rough idea of what you want your outdoor living space to look like and feel like. Although your deck builder can help with this process ultimately you will be living with your decking area for years to come, it needs to suit you and your family.



Approval

It is important to understand what the requirements of your city council are in relation to your building works. Although a lot of decks are exempt some are not and thus will require development application (DA). Each council has different requirements ask you deck builder what they are.



Budget

Decking prices can vary quite a lot especially due to factors such as materials, access and height. Having a budget is important as you want this to be an investment your proud of. Your deck builder should be able to show you different options of materials so that it can suit your budget.



Materials

To decide what materials you want to use for your deck you need to consider your lifestyle, time, budget and the look your going for. There are a lot of great materials to choose from that your deck builder can help with.

TYPES OF MATERIAL OR

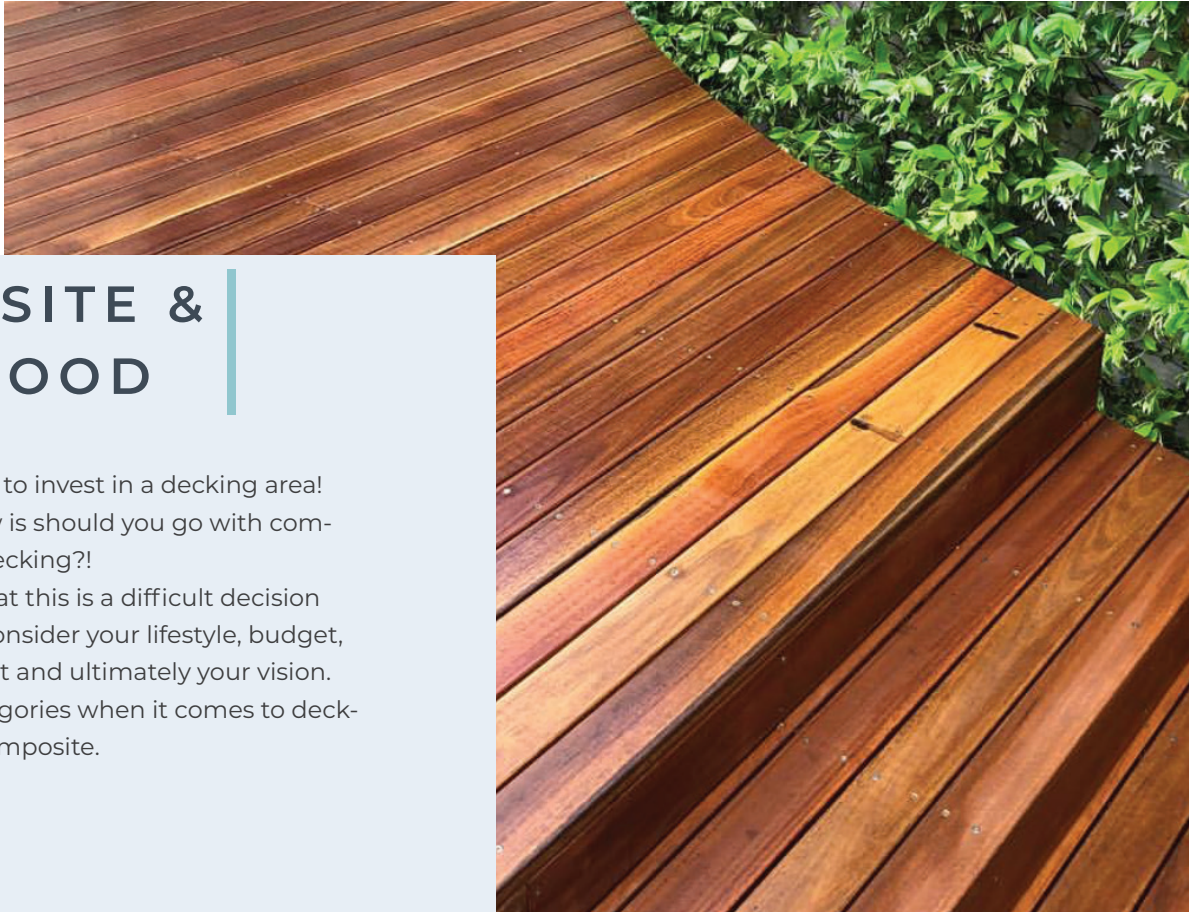
A recent master builder survey found that the most popular renovation for homeowners are decks, and 23% of homeowners will add a deck to their home if it's not already in place. One part of renovating that can be time-consuming and tricky is picking the materials to suit your home environment. The same applies to decking

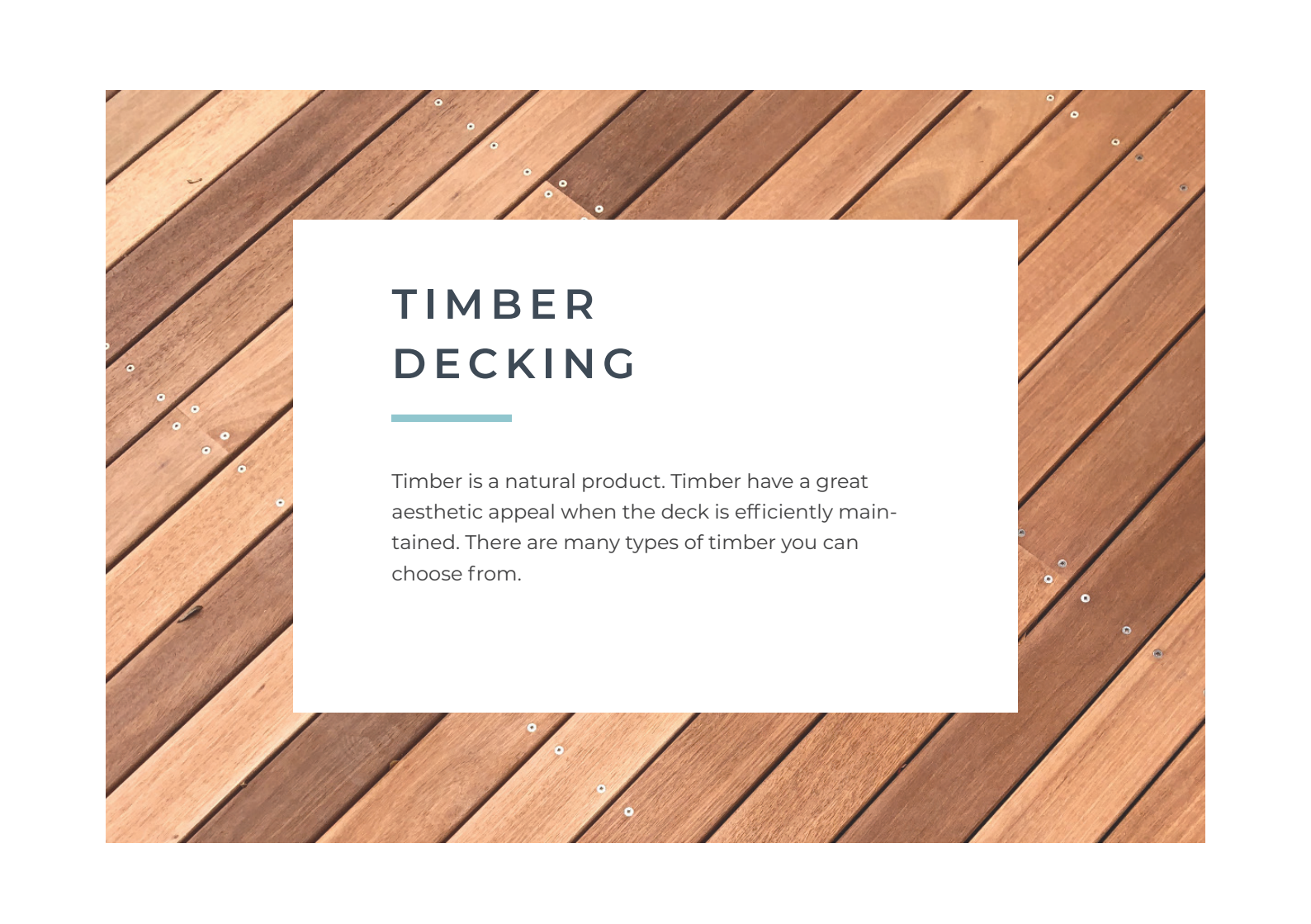


COMPOSITE & HARDWOOD

So, you've decided to invest in a decking area! The only issue now is should you go with composite or timber decking?!

We understand that this is a difficult decision that will need to consider your lifestyle, budget, home environment and ultimately your vision. There are two categories when it comes to decking; timber and composite.





TIMBER DECKING

Timber is a natural product. Timber have a great aesthetic appeal when the deck is efficiently maintained. There are many types of timber you can choose from.

TYPES OF TIMBER DECKING



MERBAU

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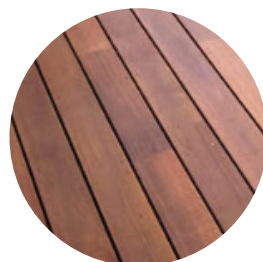
Merbau is one of the most popular decking timbers. With its rich reddish brown color, it gives a beautiful feel especially with some greenery to provide a nice contrast. Merbau has a high durability rating and is rot and insect resistant. Merbau is also one of the most stable timbers on the market.



SPOTTED GUM

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Spotted gum is also another popular choice due to its pale brown to chocolate brown colour, its high durability rating and fire-resistance* in bush fire prone areas. From an environmental standpoint, Spotted gum is usually plantation grown in Australia too. This timber provides a more softer look than other timber options.



JARRAH

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Jarrah is another popular timber due to its colour being a range between light to very dark browns and reds. However, it is more expensive than other timbers. Jarrah has a high durability rating and is fire-resistant* and can be used in some bush fire prone areas.



IRON BARK

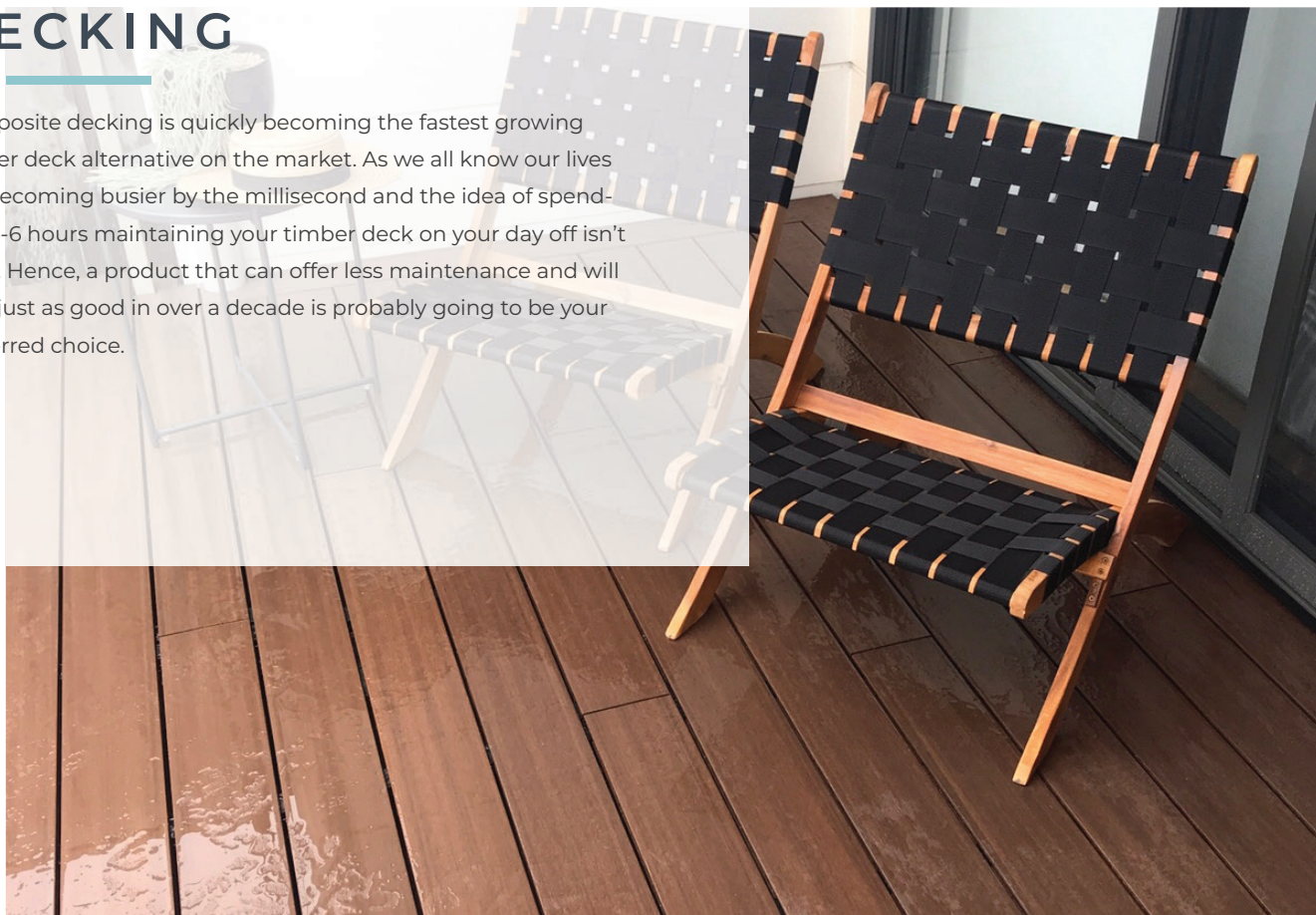
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Just as its name states this type of timber is Iron strong and will give you a deck that will (almost) last forever! Iron bark is usually a pale brown to deep red colour. With the highest durability rating this timber it also is fire*, rot and termite resistant.

*Spotted Gum and Merbau timber are our recommended timbers.

COMPOSITE DECKING

Composite decking is quickly becoming the fastest growing timber deck alternative on the market. As we all know our lives are becoming busier by the millisecond and the idea of spending 4-6 hours maintaining your timber deck on your day off isn't ideal. Hence, a product that can offer less maintenance and will look just as good in over a decade is probably going to be your preferred choice.





REASONS WE LOVE COMPOSITE DECKING

1 Less Maintenance

Composite decking is deemed the most durable product on the market being rot and insect resistant, thus they have a much longer lifespan than timber decks. Composite decks do not require sanding or oiling like timber, maintaining your composite decking requires semi-annual cleaning which involves a spray of a hose and cleaning products*.

2 Design and sustainability

Composite decking manufacturers have been able to simulate the look of exotic hardwoods to give the client a variety of options when designing and building a deck. Composite decking provides the client a choice of tailoring their backyard to exactly how they wish to suit their home environment (e.g., coastal feel or rustic feel).

Being environmentally friendly is becoming a necessity in this day and age. Majority of composite decking products are sustainable and eco-friendly made out of recycled materials and plastics.

3 Cost effective

Composite decking is one of the more expensive decking products on the market. Although the cost of your composite deck will be higher in comparison to a timber deck, the annual maintenance costs for your timber deck will eventually cost more in the long run. Thus, composite decking is a good investment for the future.

4 Warranties

Another significant factor about composite decking products is that most companies offer a 10 to 25-year warranty with the product which ensures the longevity of your deck without any hiccups along the way.

Some of the composites we recommend are Millboard, modwood, Trex and newtechwood however the composite market it always growing and we are open to using different products.

TIMBER DECKING

Pros

- Natural look through the unique and varied appearance of each wooden board
- Strong and durable
- Easy to install
- Doesn't require staining for an appearance (but is recommended)
- Less likely to sustain marks and scratches
- Each hardwood has natural benefits Versatile
- Initially cheaper than composite timber

Cons

- Prone to weathering easily (Rot, splitting etc).
- Regular maintenance is required to ensure life of deck



Picking the most suitable decking material is a choice entirely up to you. Both composite and timber will provide you with a durable and versatile space that will require some level of upkeep. Both products will provide you with a stunning outdoor area, so now all you need to do is set your budget and envision your dream decking area.

COMPOSITE DECKING

Pros

- Eco-friendly
- Mimics grains and colours of timber
- Easy to install
- No continuous costs to maintain deck
- Low maintenance
- Resistant to Mould & Insects
- No rotting boards to replace
- No wood splinters, twist, cupping or wood splits
- Stain and weather resistant
- Regular standardised board length
- Anti-slip properties
- Can allow you to create more of a look in your outdoor area e.g. rustic feel without the issues or Beachy look
- Majority of composite companies have over 10 years warranty
- Cost less than a timber deck in the long run

Cons

- Initial investment is much higher than timber decking

DECKING MAINTENANCE

The harsh Aussie climate and repeated neglect over time can mean that your timber deck is looking less than ideal and potentially may lead to permanent damage. It's important to provide the correct maintenance for your deck throughout the years to reduce the impact of seasonal changes and keep your deck looking as good as new!



The key visible signs of an ageing deck include:

- Loss of colour (in particular greying)
- Cracks and splinters
- Fungi and mould

60%

Of decks are not regularly maintained



FRAMING

You wouldn't build a house on low quality ground and that's the same for your decking! Framing is one of the most important parts of your deck as it is the foundation of the area. There are three types of framing we often use that are beneficial for different types of environments.

1 H3 Treated pine

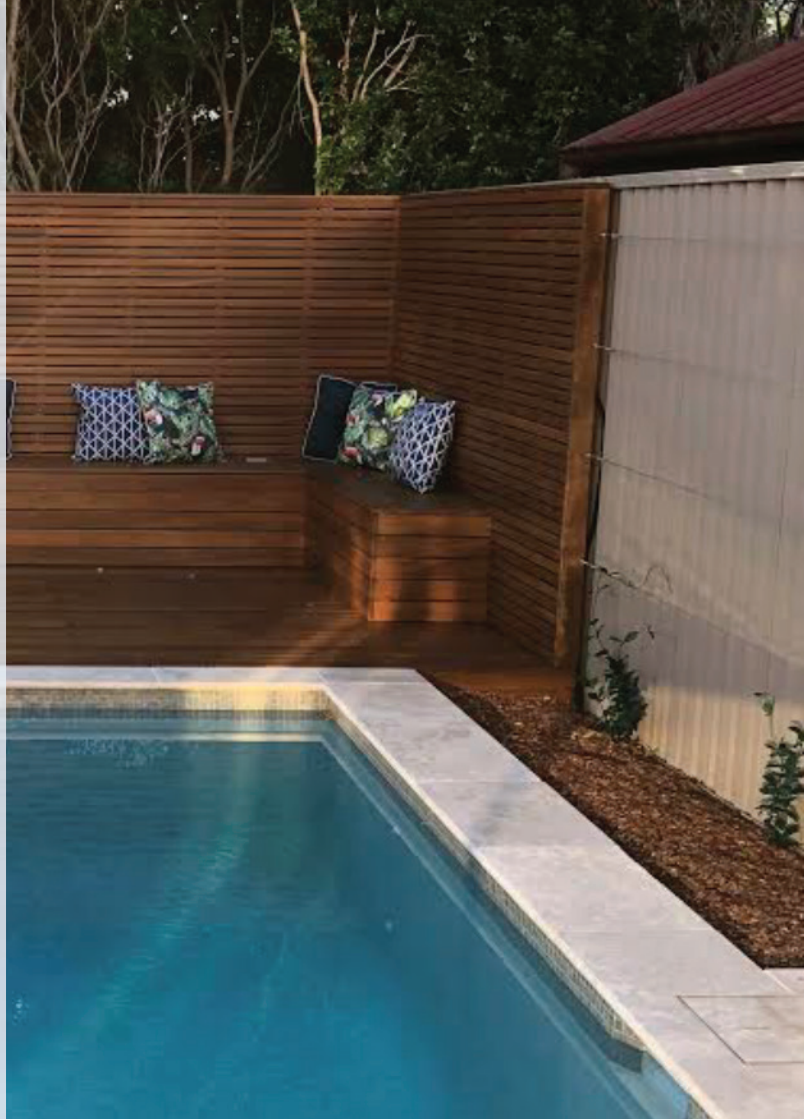
This is one of the most popular framing options for decking, its cost effective and good. This framing must be 400mm off the ground to ensure adequate airflow thus it is not a good

2 H4 Treated Pine

This framing is designed for low height decks below the 400mm mark. This framing option can be installed on an adjustable pedestal or screwed to an existing slap. The framing has a 25 year warranty as well.

3 Spantec

This framing system is made of steel it is beneficial as it is non-combustible, fire resistant, rot and termite resistance and cost effective. They can be powder coated to suit a colour your after and is suitable for low height decks. Steel framing will not deteriorate like treated pine options if not protected and maintained.



HOW TO CHOOSE A DECK BUILDER

Investing in any building works is a big decision as it can impact your home for years to come and with so many companies to choose from it can sometimes make the decision difficult. Now that your considering to invest in a deck it's important to consider key factors of a potential deck builder that could impact the build and quality of the finished product.





1 Licensing and insurance

Anyone who is a carpenter in NSW can build works up to 20K. Make sure you ask the builder for their licence and that the licence matches the name of the contractor. All companies in NSW are legally required to have public liability and workers compensation insurance. You can ask for these.

2 Practices

It's a good idea to question the company's practices. Be sure to ask: Do they have fully qualified carpenters on site at all times? What is your lead time? What is the warranty your company provides? Do you build to the Australian Standards? What will you use to prolong the life of my deck? (e.g. joist protection).

3 References and Experience

Nothing beats long term experience as it provides the installer the insight and knowledge into the best possible deck for you and your home. It shouldn't be too hard to find completed works of any business these days with social media. However, if you are unable to find any ask your installer to e-mail some across. The same applies to reviews it's important to know who you are dealing with.

4 Home Warranties Insurance

If your project is quoted over \$20,000 in NSW you are legally required to have home warranties insurance. Home warranties insurance protects you by ensuring you are covered for any faulty or incomplete work if the business goes under. Home warranties is an extra cost however it is necessary to protect yourself.



FEATURES YOU CAN ADD TO YOUR DECK

Now that you have your decking/alfresco area planned what better way than to enhance the area with some features that will increase the usability and the aesthetics of the space. We find that including features such as fans, heaters and lighting can dramatically increase how you use the space and allow you to enjoy your decking area in all seasons of the year. Lighting also highlights the features of your decking area and backyard.



BBQ'S & BENCH SEATS

You can also increase the usability and enjoyment of the space by installing bench seating with the option of storage. Bench seating is a great way to enhance the look of the space and not over crowd the area either with furniture as its already built in. It also is a great option if you are limited with space.

In built bbqs and fire pits are another popular option as it adds to being a functional and liveable space that can be used for all occasions.

PERGOLAS

Pergola's are a great way to create that seamless indoor and outdoor connection in your home. Not only that, pergolas are one of the best ways to protect your deck from our harsh Aussie climate. These days pergolas can be designed anyway you wish with lights, fans and heaters....the list goes on! A pergola can transform your outdoor living area and your ability to entertain for all times and seasons of the year.



1

Flat Deck

Modern cladding which is another good option as it can integrate into your home, is durable, strong and easy to maintain.

2

Insulated roofing panels

One of our most popular pergolas as it provides a comfortable atmosphere in all seasons and will keep you cool in our very hot summers.

3

Skylite Louvre

A remote controlled pergola that allows you to open the louvre roofs of the pergola and close them if you wish via a remote.

4

Twin Wall

Polycarbonate roofing sheets that provide excellent light transmission to penetrate alfresco area and provides quite a unique and satisfying appearance



US

Urban decking is a family owned and operated company with over 10 years' experience in the Sydney area specializing in decking and pergolas. We know that your home is the heart of your family and that's why it needs to reflect you.

Urban decking specializes in creating the Australian dream come true through thinking outside of the box to design and construct outdoor areas that can be enjoyed for every occasion.

We pride ourselves on clear communication, practical & functional solutions, honest quality and accurate quotes. We believe this is our point of difference.

We are a husband and wife duo who have meticulously designed every element of Urban decking from our team down to our quoting to ensure all our values are embodied.

If your wanting to create your dream outdoor area [Call us](#) today and lets get started.







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