

2021



Finishing's and Fixings

So, you've decided you want to clad your property or lay some decking, but you're not sure what finishing's and fixings you require. Never fear, our expertise is here! Here we will run through all you need to know about our finishing's and fixings, how to install them and our expert recommendations for different materials and profiles.

Invizifix Hidden Deck Fasteners

Our Invizifix Hidden Deck Fasteners are designed for use on hardwoods and composites. These fasteners allow for expansion and contraction and are designed so that no screws show on the surface of the boards. The fasteners allow for spacing to be automatically pre-set, and eliminates the need for pre-drilling of screw holes into hardwoods.

The Invizifix Hidden Deck Fasteners are made from heavy-duty black polypropylene and offer the highest melting point for plastics. These fasteners are resistant to UV exposure, salt, moisture, oil, insects, most acids and chemicals and are easy to remove if boards need to be replaced.

Deck Board Screws 4.5 x 60mm (Small Head)

These small-headed stainless steel finishing screws are to be used on stable timbers such as our ThermoWoods, IPE Hardwood and Cedar Softwood. Due to their small heads, the screws virtually disappear from the surface.

Landscape Screws

The Landscape Screws are exterior grade and ideal for timber structures.

Deck Board Spacers

Our simple, multi-purpose and effective deck board spacers are used to set a consistent 5mm gap between each deck board. Made from rigid, recycled plastic these spacers are suitable for deck boards 19-45mm thick. The multi-purpose T-bar stops the spacers from falling, aids correct positioning of deck screws to 25mm in from each side of the board. These spacers are suitable for hardwoods and softwoods.

Mini Jiffy Joist Hanger 44 x 68mm

Our Mini Jiffy Joist Hangers are made from pre-galvanised steel and supports short-span joists. They are designed to optimise fast installation for light-duty applications.

Heavy Duty Joist Hanger 50 x 165mm

Our Heavy-Duty Joist Hangers are made from pre-galvanised steel and have bolt holes suitable for 12mm fasteners.

Heavy-Duty Weed Control Fabric Membrane

The Heavy-Duty Membrane is to be used under a decking framework to prevent the growth of weeds, whilst still allowing water to drain through the cloth. This material is easy to cut, UV stabilised and doesn't fray or let weeds through.

Fixing Recommendations

For all timber and composite cladding and decking installations, we would recommend that you always screw the boards into position using A2 304 grade Stainless Steel Screws or Marine Grade A4 316 Stainless Screws for exposed coastal applications. We would strongly advise against using a nail gun. Although this may seem like the quicker option for the installer, the finish and damage that will occur will usually be rejected by most customers. This also applies to decking frameworks since external grade screws will hold the framework tight, whereas the subtle movement of softwood frameworks would loosen nails. We suggest keeping your nail gun for internal applications which are not exposed to the UK weather.

One exception when installing timber cladding would be the use of Stainless Brads (Pins). These pins, like screws, can be installed at an angle through the profile of the cladding. However, these should only be used on stable timbers in less exposed locations as their holding power is significantly less than screws.

When installing cladding you should never tightly fit the boards together if they are of a tongue and groove style profile. Leave a 1-2mm breathing space to allow for any subtle changes in the cladding boards, brought on by the variable UK weather.

Fixings on Profiles

Our Palma profile requires a Palma T-Clip. Once the first bottom row of clips is screwed into the batten you can slot the cladding board down onto the clips. You would then repeat the process to hold the boards in place.

In the case of boards with a side groove (4mm slot down the edge of the board). The Invizifix T-clip can be used for running cladding boards vertically. If the boards are not sitting on a cill then we would advise discreetly pinning the board to prevent it from possibly moving down and out of position over time.

This same Invizifix T-clip is the most common fixing for decking boards. They speed up the installation time and eliminates visible fixings on the surface of the boards. A typical deck would require approximately 42 screws per m2 and these would be pre-drilled if using hardwood. Whereas, with the Invizifix T-clips, you would only require 21 clips per m2, as well as no pre-drilling, since the screw goes through the centre of the clip and straight into the framework.

Project Essentials

For cladding projects your essentials would be as follows:

- A waterproof breathable membrane tacked onto the building substrate, with the membrane overlaps taped up.
- BS graded Cladding Battens commonly 25mm thick x 35mm wide. These are generally blue for easy identification and can be painted.
- If cladding horizontally then one row of vertical battens will be required at spacings of between 400mm-600mm.
- If cladding vertically, you will require a vertical row followed by a horizontal row, creating a 50mm cavity. It is important to bear this in mind since your reveals back to windows and door frames could be up to 70mm from the front face of the cladding, back to the building envelope plus the distance back to the window frame depending on how far you set back your windows.
- You will need external grade screws to fix the Cladding Battens to the building.
- We would also recommend Insect Mesh to run along the bottom of the cladding, which covers the cavity created by the battens. This prevents insects from getting into the cavity. More importantly, this allows any moisture build-up on the membrane to escape through the building.