



EXPERT REVEALS HANDY HOW-TO GUIDE FOR DIY-ING TRENDING 'OUTDOOR DECKING' LOOK THIS SUMMER

- Half of the nation are using social media to find out how to complete DIY tasks, and 73% believe themselves to be capable at DIY*
- With the summer proving to be a scorcher, many Brits are looking for a way to build a comfortable outdoor space in their own garden
- Now, B&Q's Head of Building & Landscaping has shared a beginner's guide on how to build a deck in the garden, without the price tag that comes with a large landscape project

2025: Social media is increasingly making Brits feel empowered to undertake DIY tasks themselves, with a recent survey revealing that 50% of people have used social media to find out how to complete DIY tasks, and 73% believing themselves to be capable at DIY.

With a quarter of Gen-Z reporting that they follow DIY accounts, it's no surprise that TikTok's like [these](#) are racking up thousands of views and encouraging people to create a place to sit and enjoy their outdoor space this summer. With a heatwave on the horizon, B&Q's Head of Outdoor has unveiled a handy how-to guide on DIY-ing the perfect outdoor space.

B&Q's Head of Building & Landscaping, Laura Nicholson, says: "We know our customers are always trying to improve their DIY skills, and whilst making a big impact, building a ground level deck doesn't have to be an overwhelming project. Our guide is designed to demystify the process and make it accessible to both seasoned DIY experts and beginners. We want every homeowner to have the opportunity to transform their outdoor space into a welcoming retreat. Above all, decking shouldn't cost a fortune, and if you DIY it with B&Q, it doesn't have to."

STEP 1: GROUNDWORK

Laura says: "First, decide how big the deck should be and choose the best spot in the garden to suit this. Then, measure the space and hammer a peg into the ground at each of the corners of the deck site. Look for somewhere that already looks quite level and has good drainage. Run a piece of string from each of the pegs to help visualise the area, and clear away any plants, rocks, or other debris in this area.

Next, use a spade to remove the turf, and then use a straightedge with a spirit level on top to ensure the area is level. If the area isn't level, use the spade to level out any unevenness in the ground. Although you can lay your decking straight onto the ground, adding concrete joist blocks will stabilise the deck and help ensure the decking lasts longer."

STEP 2: DECK PREP

Laura says: "Now, work out where the concrete joist blocks are needed and dig holes roughly 150mm square and 150mm deep at intervals of 1.2m. Fill the holes with a quick-drying, ready-to-use concrete to just above ground level.

When the concrete is completely dry, cover the whole area with weed control fabric (making cut-outs for the concrete joist blocks) and a layer of gravel (40 to 50mm in depth). Cut and lay squares of damp-proof course to sit between the concrete and the deck joists."

Then, measure the deck boards to the desired length and mark a cut line. Use a saw to cut the boards, and if using timber boards, apply a protective treatment to any cut or recessed areas. Composite boards don't need sanding, or treatment.

STEP 3: SUB-FRAME ASSEMBLY

Laura says: "Before permanently fixing the frame, lay out the joists and deck boards as a dry run to check spacing for expansion gaps. These should be 5-8mm along the board's length, and 3mm at the ends. Mark and drill countersunk recesses on the outer joists where they meet the inner ones. Drill pilot holes through adjoining joists to avoid splitting, then secure with coach screws.

It is best to build the outer frame of the deck first, and then attach the inner joists using the same method. For extended joists, clamp the sections together and support the joint with a 600mm off-cut, and make sure to secure this with additional coach bolts. "

STEP 4: LAYING THE DECK

Laura says: "Now that the decking area is all prepared for the deck boards, it's time to lay them. It is best to start from one corner of the sub-frame, and lay the first board across the inner joists, so that it is perpendicular to the joists and flush with the frame.

Continue laying out the boards. Where boards join end-to-end, cut the board whilst reserving an expansion gap of 3mm. Secure each board to every joist it covers with two decking screws, placing them at least 15mm from the end of the board and 20mm from the edge.

Finally, sand any rough edges and brush on an end-grain preserver. Then, finish the deck with decking stain, decking oil, or paint to help protect the boards."

LAURA'S PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS:

DIY DECKING PRODUCT GUIDE		
		
Klikstrom Madeira Green Spruce Deck Board £8.50	Metsä Wood Elbi Pine Deck joist (L)2.4m (W)144mm (T)44mm £15	Tarmac 20mm Gravel, Large Bag £4.40



		
Diall M8 Coach Bolt & Nut £8.08	Erbauer 160W 220-240V Corded Detail sander - EDLS160 £33	GoodHome Teak Matt Quick dry Decking Wood stain, 2.5L £24

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ENDS

Notes to editors:

For more information, images and sample requests, please contact b-and-q@wearetheromans.com

*<https://www.diy.com/the-way-we-live-now>

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