Vermont ready to fit DECKING

By RONSEAL

Assembly Guide

Your step-by-step assembly guide to a beautiful deck.

Welcome

Welcome to the World of Vermont

The purpose of this guide is to assist you in the self-assembly of your Vermont Deck. It is a straightforward step-by-step process, one which anyone with a moderate level of DIY ability should be able to complete comfortably in a day or less. It is possible to work on your own, but a second pair of hands to help position the decking panels will make the job easier.

Choosing the Right Site

Consider the size you want the deck to be, do you want it in a sunny location, what garden furniture will you want to use, do you require space for a patio heater, barbecue etc. Choose the location carefully. It is not necessary to physically attach the deck to the house or to a wall.

In all situations however, observe the following:

- Choose a firm, relatively flat area
- Choose an area with easy, safe access
- Choose a well drained area

Choosing the right tools

One of the great advantages of the Vermont Decking System is that it really is ready to fit. You only need three tools to complete the job.

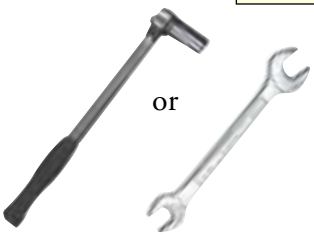
You will need

A Philip's screwdriver, ideally a powered model with No 2 head

A 13mm Spanner - or 13mm Socket & Wrench

A spirit level

Note: We do not recommend that Vermont panels be cut at any stage



Four Stages to Completion

Stage One

Laying the Subframe

Easily bolted together and placed in position

Stage Two

Levelling the Subframe

Using Vermont Block and Wedge system

Stage Three

Laying the Decking

Place and fix the decking top panels

Stage Four

Mounting Railings

Mount railings and fascia board finishing

Step 1

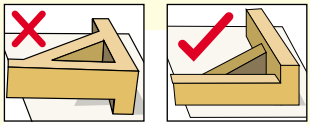
Preparing the site

Lay a sheet of weed control fabric (not supplied) on any grass area of the intended site of your deck to prevent future weed growth. It is a good idea to apply a weed killer before laying down the fabric.

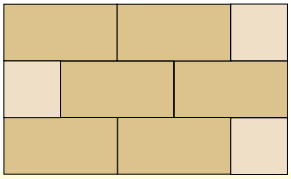
Step 2

Laying the subframe

Unpack each panel, remove the top deck panels, and leave to one side. Begin laying out the subframe panels into your chosen deck shape before bolting them together. In order that your top deck panel fits correctly it is important that the subframe panels are correctly facing upwards and that all panels are pointing in the same direction.To achieve this ensure that the high sides of the frame are facing upwards and all running in the same direction.



When laying out your deck always use a brickwork pattern. This ensures that the bolt holes will match up to one another and gives maximum strength to the subframe.



Brickwork Pattern

Step 3

Bolting the subframe before levelling

All subframe panels are already drilled. Bolt subframe panels together by hand using bolts, washers and nuts provided. Remember to place the washer beside the nut. When joining panels it is important to bolt through all predrilled guide holes. The bolts should be tightened using a spanner.

It is important to ensure that the tops of the frames are flush with each other before they are finally tightened. If this is not the case it will affect the level of the final deck. Due to the design of the quadrant and triangular panels these frames will not be flush, in their case tighten the bolts as normal.

Step 4

Overcoming obstacles

When positioning the firmly bolted frame in your chosen location, there may be obstacles to achieving a flush fit. If this is not the case for your deck location go directly to **Step 5 on page 7**.

Vermont filler brackets and single boards are used as follows:

Place filler brackets between the wall and the deck frame.

Pull back frame and screw home filler brackets in the position as shown.

If necessary adjust the levelling leg to ensure solid support.

Step 4

Overcoming obstacles

Brackets should be placed at 1 metre intervals.

Place a single board on top of the bracket and screw into place through the protruding bracket eye. Finally, push home subframe into desired final position.

The obstacle could be wider than a single filler board (12cm) such as a deep concrete step. In this case we recommend the use of backfilling the gap with decorative stones or bark chippings, which can add an attractive finish as shown.

If the gap is over 37.5cm wide the Vermont Narrow panel can be used. Narrow panels should be attached in the same way as full and half panels.

If your frame has moved slightly during the bolting stage then push it back into position before moving on to Step 5.

Step 5

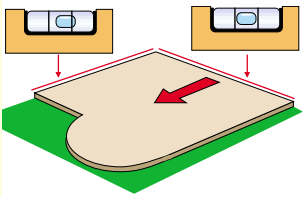
Levelling the subframe

The objective in levelling is to establish a secure platform for your deck. It is also important that water drains easily off the deck. Ideally you should drain your deck away from house if adjoined.

Drain away from house

To achieve this the deck must be level on one side but with a slight fall off toward the outside of the deck, along the length of the board.

Your spirit level should read like this

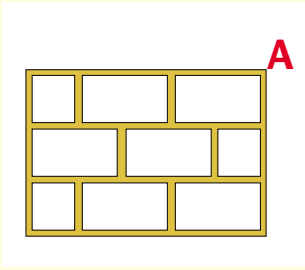


Vermont have developed a unique levelling system based on 4cm high Wooden Blocks and Wedges. These interlocking blocks allow a levelling range of 4cm to 24cm; ie a maximum of 6 blocks high, the wedges offer additional fine adjustment. The blocks should be placed on the ground with the two raised ribs facing upwards.

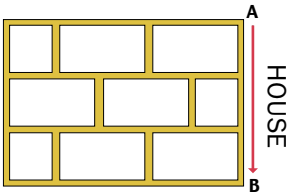
Establishing a Starting Point

The objective is to establish a starting corner **A** which is at the highest point of the site on which the subframe rests.

If your deck adjoins the house, establish one of the adjoining corners as corner **A**, the highest point, to ensure good drainage. If it is not already the highest point you will need to use several blocks to raise the height of corner **A** and commence your subframe levelling as follows:



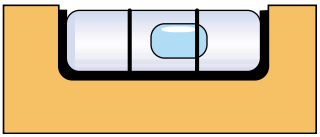
Level from corner **A** to corner **B,** insert block(s) at **B** to achieve approximate level. Ensure blocks are inside the frame of your deck to allow you fit the fascia board at the end.

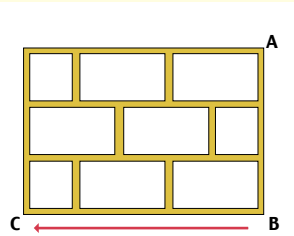


Slide in a Wedge to achieve accurate level. Wedges should be pushed gently into place to achieve firm grip. Use a spirit level to ensure constant level along the line **A** to **B.**

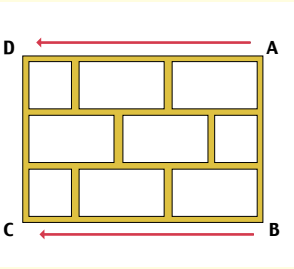
Now level along the side of subframe, from **B** to **C.** By levelling with a slight fall off you will ensure good drainage, this need only be very slight. Be sure that this is done along the length of the boards so that water drains off easily.

Your spirit level should read like this





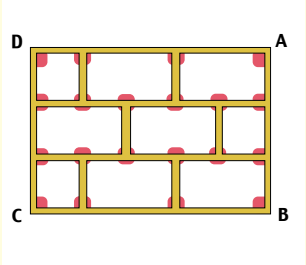
Finally match the level of the opposite side **A** to **D** with the same fall as side **B** to **C**.



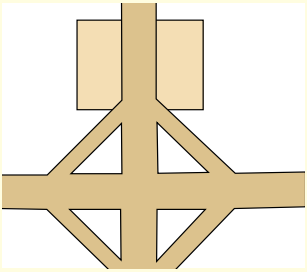
Step 5

Levelling the subframe

To complete the levelling insert Blocks and Wedges as required beside all intersections in order to give overall strength and evenness to the deck.

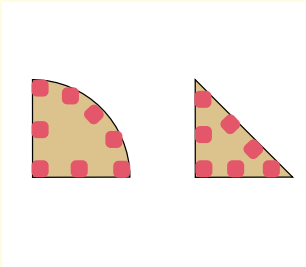


The blocks should not be placed underneath the intersection but under the frame beside it.



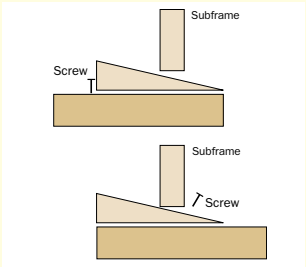
Important: When inserting wedges you should do so gently as your aim is to eliminate any free space under the frame. If you insert the wedges too much you will throw off the level you have achieved.

When supporting a quadrant or triangle we recommend placing Blocks in the following positions.



Securing the Wedges

Any wedges that you have inserted must be secured into place with the screws supplied. These can be placed either at the back of the wedge or from the top down through the wedge.

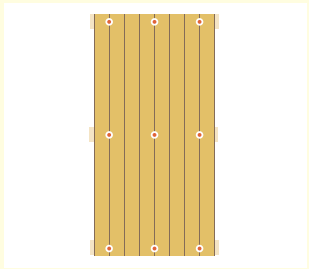


Step 6

Laying the Decking

The Vermont Decking Panels are constructed to fit neatly onto the subframe. Slot Decking Panels onto subframe to match brickwork pattern effect.

Screw top deck panels between the decking boards and through the top deck cross panels in a pattern similar to that shown. Make sure that you screw the cross battens on the top deck panel right through to the cross battens on the subframe.

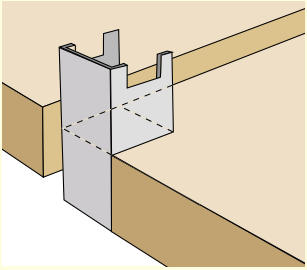


If you are not mounting railings go directly to Step 8 on page 15.

Step 7

Mounting the Vermont rails

Vermont Rails come ready assembled in both 1 metre (6 spindles) and 90cm (5 spindles) lengths. The railings are connected to the decking frame by means of metal mounting shoes, with all necessary screws included.



Begin with a 1 metre rail unit. Remove the metal shoe from railing. Place the metal shoe at desired starting position for railing. **This must be placed at the corner edge of a panel.**

Firstly screw from front of the shoe to the subframe through all four guide holes.

Further fix the shoe by screwing through the four holes inside the floor of the shoe.

Step 7

Mounting the Vermont rails

Place a 1metre rail unit into this shoe and firmly screw into shoe on all sides.

Note that top handrail splits in two. Remove top half by loosening the screws underneath it to expose bracket which will fasten this unit to the next. (Retain these screws). A matching bracket under the bottom rail is also used to join units once you place the next unit into position.

Now position second metal shoe at edge of 1st unit bottom rail. To do this you must ensure that the first unit is level (use spirit level to check).

Secure shoe to deck and place second railing unit in this shoe and screw home firmly into the shoe.

Step 7

Mounting the Vermont rails

Fasten bracket of 1st railing to newel post of 2nd, taking care to ensure that 2nd rail unit is level.

Repeat fastening on bottom bracket and continue in 1 metre rail lengths until last length of the railing run.

Your final length should be an 90cm rail. This shorter unit allows an individual newel post to be placed at the END of the deck facilitating either a neat completion or a turn.

When making a turn start your next line with a 1 metre length and finish this railing run with a 90cm unit.

Step 7

Mounting the Vermont rails

When all railings are in place, replace top half of handrail and screw home from underneath.

Quadrants and Triangles
Due to the design of these panel shapes they are not suited to railing units being joined to them.

If additional strength is required on your railings the Vermont brace block (supplied) can be screwed into place as shown.

Step 8

Fitting Fascia Skirt & Meshing

Trim a piece of weed control fabric or mesh (not supplied) to fit around the base of the deck.

Screw wood fascia panels into position at base of deck to achieve perfect finish.These screws are not supplied, we recommend you use 40mm x 4mm galvanised wood screws.

Care and Maintenance

Due to the nature of wood you may find that resin from the wood has seeped out to the surface. This is perfectly normal and can easily be removed. Simply remove the resin with a plastic scrapper taking care not to damage the wood, and gently wipe away any residue with a cloth dampened with white spirit.

Your Vermont ready to fit deck is pressure treated and is protected for at least 15 years. The decorative finish has been achieved using Ronseal Decking Oil, Natural Cedar. To maintain this finish we recommend that the coating be inspected on an annual basis and recoated as appropriate.

Your deck can be cleaned using Ronseal Decking Cleaner & Reviver. Both products should be applied by following the instructions on the can.

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