

Seal any joints or areas at risk of high moisture with a compound. Using joist protection like GTape over the top edge of the joists can also help protect the deck from long term rot – choose a dark tape color to avoid drawing attention away from your decking.

## **5. LAY**

Once your foundation is in place and stable, it's time to lay down the deck boards. Use the applicable manufacturer's proprietary fixing system. Different brands of the composite have different fixing methods. From top fixing screws that 'disappear' through the top surface, to 'biscuit type' or strip click-in strips both of which produce secret or concealed fixing.

Butt joints are best avoided with composite decking because of the significant thermal movement that occurs daily. Use full-length boards with feature or breaker boards to 'hide' the necessary expansion joints. The best time to set this up correctly is in the planning stage where you can, if possible, design the deck to be the same size as the available boards. Helping save a massive amount of time and material waste and in turn, save money.

## **OPTIONAL: INSTALLING ADD-ONS**

The last step is to add deck balustrades, lighting or stairs. Start balustrade posts 6 centimeters away from the house to prevent moisture build-up.