TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS woodlook

1. WPC substructure ONLY on a concrete slab

- Recommendation: WPC joists are suitable for laying on a solid base such as a concrete slab, where they can be securely anchored with hammer-in anchors every 50 cm.

2. WPC joists are unsuitable for certain bases

- Problem: WPC joists have no bridging function, so they are not suitable for gravel beds, waterproofed balconies/terraces or adjustable pedestals, where they cannot be firmly anchored.

- Solution: For these types of base, use aluminium joists, pressure-treated timber joists or a steel substructure.

3. Joists must not be embedded in concrete

- Recommendation: Neither WPC nor other joists may be embedded directly in concrete, to prevent moisture build-up that could cause them to degrade.

4. Placing joists under board joints

- Recommendation: Joists must be laid so that the joints of the decking boards are always firmly supported over a joist, preventing sagging and damage. This means a joist must be placed under the end and the start of boards joined end to end.

5. Increasing load capacity for heavy loads

- Recommendation: Where higher load capacity is required (e.g. when installing a hot tub or air-conditioning units), the centre-to-centre spacing of the joists must be reduced to 15–20 cm.

6. Dealing with thermal expansion of the boards

- Recommendation: To make the decking boards expand in one direction only, we recommend fixing each board firmly at one point on its side to the WPC joist with a 3.5x38 mm screw.

7. Insufficient fall of the base

- Problem: The base is completely level, which leads to water collecting on and under the terrace and a risk of mould or deformation.
- Solution: Provide a minimum fall of 1–2 % (1–2 cm per metre of length) away from the building so that rainwater drains properly.

8. Ignoring expansion gaps

- Problem: The boards are laid too close together, causing deformation when temperatures change.
- Solution: Keep the recommended gaps between boards (usually 5–7 mm) and between board ends and fixed obstacles (e.g. walls). Set the gaps according to the temperature during installation.

9. Not keeping the spacing between joists

- Mistake: The spacing between joists is too large, which leads to sagging or instability of the terrace.
- Solution: When laying the boards, keep to the recommended spacing (usually 35–40 cm).

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10. Cutting the boards incorrectly

- Mistake: Unsuitable cutting tools are used, resulting in jagged edges or surface damage.
- Solution: Use a fine-toothed saw, ideally a mitre saw with a blade for plastics or aluminium, to get clean cuts.

11. Using unsuitable fixings

- Mistake: Using ordinary steel screws, which corrode.
- Recommendation: Always use stainless steel screws and fixings that are resistant to weathering.

12. Not following the manufacturer's instructions

- Mistake: Installing "your own way" without taking the manufacturer's specific recommendations into account.
- Solution: Always read the technical documentation and installation instructions supplied by the supplier of your WPC boards.

Raised structures, jetties

For jetties, the structure must be built as stable as, for example, on a concrete foundation. If the structure is unstable, the clips can be compressed, the gaps between the decking boards can close up, and the boards become stressed and may crack or even break.

For better stability, expansion and flexibility we recommend using shorter boards on jetties, with a maximum length of 2200 mm.

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