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# Timber decks – common problems and repairs

Exposed to the elements, timber decks frequently need repairs to stay looking good and remain safe to use. Regular maintenance may include replacing rotten boards, fixing nails that have popped and removing moss and mould.

**EXPOSURE TO** weather conditions means that timber decks are particularly vulnerable to deterioration. The repeated wetting and drying, combined with exposure to UV light and temperature changes, causes the boards to continuously swell and shrink and puts a great deal of stress on the timber and fasteners.

## Common problems

The most common problems with timber decks are generally due to poor material selection, design and construction or age. Nails pop, boards splinter or become cracked, warped or cupped, fixings corrode and timber rots.

Most problems occur in decks where the timber is unable to dry in between periods of wetting.

These include:

- decking becoming slippery and stained due to moss or mildew growth
- decking becoming spongy or springy, sagging, bouncing or developing holes
- fixings corroding, particularly in coastal environments.

If decks are over 1 m above ground, complex or severely deteriorated, seek professional advice first – a specialist may be required to undertake this work safely.

## Rot in the timber

Continuously damp timber will rot. In timber



Insufficient gap between cladding and decking.



Rotten deck boards.